Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the CNMI is ready for the federal takeover of its immigration system this Friday?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of November 26, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

New Band

Club V will be hoppin' and poppin' to the beat of the latest band to hit the town, Tenderloin District.

LOCAL...Page 14

New Star

If Taylor Lautner's scared, he's not showing it.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 25

Fund ends FY09 with investments at $334M. **PAGE 2**

CNMI quarters will become available on Nov. 30. **PAGE 3**

Judge stops DHS from implementing interim final rule

Agency told to come up with regs for alien workers to travel in, out of NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal government's interim final rule on the CNMI transitional worker program will not go into effect tomorrow, Saturday, after the judge handling the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization issued a preliminary injunction yesterday to prevent the rule from going into effect pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

See JUDGE on Page 4

"DHS should not now expect to excuse its violation of the APA by pointing to the problems created by its own delay."

—U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman

Fitial, workers welcome ruling

Federal takeover excludes labor—for now

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The federal government will only be able to implement border control at the stroke of midnight on Nov. 28, but not the existing CNMI labor program, at least for now.

This is because of a federal judge's order dated Nov. 25 preventing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

See FITIAL on Page 4

'Federalization law is legal'

NMI arguments 'unpersuasive, plain wrong'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman has upheld the constitutionality of the law that applies federal immigration laws to the CNMI.

In explaining his order dismissing counts 1 and 2 of the CNMI government's amended lawsuit against federalization, Friedman described the Commonwealth's arguments "unpersuasive, unavailing, and just plain wrong."

Friedman said that Congress was authorized to enact the Consolidated Natural Resources Act by the plain and unambiguous terms of Section 503 of the Covenant. CNRA, the federalization law, is also known as Public Law 110-229.

The judge also ruled that the challenged provisions of the CNRA comply with the mutual consent provision of Section 105 and the "self-government" guarantee of Section 103 of the Covenant.

"No doubt the CNMI would prefer that federal legislation never affect any

See FEDERALIZATION on Page 4

MHS' Ornes wins PSS Teacher of the Year

Public school educators who won the teacher of the year award in their respective schools await the announcement of the overall CNMI Teacher of the Year award during a ceremony Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. Maria Ornes, a science teacher at Marianas High School, was named Teacher of the Year but was unable to personally receive her award because she was off island. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School emerged victorious again in the traditional selection of outstanding educator for the Public School System when its science teacher, Maria Ornes, was named the 2010 Teacher of the Year awardee during Wednesday night's recognition banquet at the Saipan World Resort.

Ornes succeeded fellow MHS educator Jim Phillips, who was named the 2009 Teacher of the Year and who accepted the award on behalf of Ornes during the celebration

See MHS on Page 5

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Local

Fund ends FY09 with investments at $334M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund closed the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2009, with its off-island investments totaling $334 million, an amount would have been higher had the Fund not withdrawn some for operational purposes.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon reported to the board of trustees during its last meeting that, without the ongoing drawdowns for pension payouts, the portfolio could have gone up to $380 million.

Drawdowns made in the last fiscal year totaled $43 million, he said.

Still, Aguon says the $334 million is "favorable," considering the lackluster performance of the stock markets in the last few months. The Fund's investment portfolio was valued at just $279 million in February 2009.

Fund trustees lauded the portfolio's performance, saying the recent uptick in the stock market brought substantial gains to the Fund's investments.

The Fund's portfolio plummeted from over $500 million in 2007 to about $300 million this year due to the 2008 worldwide investment market decline and increased investment drawdowns to pay for pension obligations.

Compared to other international investors, Aguon said, the Fund's "rebalancing strategy" is somehow different because it used the positive returns to pay for its obligations rather than moving it to other underperforming investments to gain more.

In short, he said, the Fund's withdrawals came from the performing investments.

Aguon said this is the reason why there's a need for a new asset liability model to determine if there's a need to replace or cut the number of money managers working for the Fund.

He said a draft of the asset liability study is now with the board's investment committee for review.

The board, during the same meeting, approved scheduling its annual meeting early in 2010, where all money managers are expected to present.

Drawdowns in FY'09

The following amounts were drawn down from the Fund's investment portfolio in fiscal year 2009:

- October 2008, $4.9 million
- November 2008, $3.7 million
- December 2008, $4.4 million
- January 2009, $4.1 million
- February 2009, $3.6 million
- March 2009, $4.4 million
- April 2009, $1.9 million
- May 2009, $2.8 million
- June 2009, $4.2 million
- July 2009, $3.9 million
- August 2009, $3.6 million

April this year showed the lowest amount of drawdown as a result of aggressive collections and positive showing in other revenue streams.

The Fund declined to disclose how much was drawn down in September but subtracting the figures above from the total of $43 million in total drawdowns show a $1.5 million difference.

The board had authorized the use of $76 million for FY 2009, with $45 million coming from investment drawdowns. With drawdowns totaling just $43 million, it appears that the Fund saved $2 million.

Fitial allots Compact Impact money to seven departments

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will allocate this year's $1.9 million Compact Impact funds to seven government agencies, including the Public School System, the Department of Public Health, and the Northern Marianas College.

In the proposed allocation summary obtained from the Office of the Governor, it showed that PSS will get $785,918, the biggest chunk of the federal assistance.

DPH will get the second biggest chunk at $414,453, with $396,110 going to the Commonwealth Health Center's operations and $18,343 for mental health.

The Department of Public Safety and its police investigation division will get $371,316, while $154,698 is being eyed for the Corrections Department.

The rest of the Compact Impact money will be divvied up among NMC, which will get $122,291; Division of Youth Services, $44,616; and Office of the Public Defender, $37,151.

This year's $1.9 million Compact Impact funding is significantly lower than the $5.1 million that the CNMI received in past years, due in large part to a 41-percent decline in the number of Freely Associated States citizens residing on the islands, based on the 2001 U.S. Census. Correspondingly, the 2010 Compact Impact funding allocation for affected agencies will be reduced this year.

Fitial assured, however, that he will supplement this funding with the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (stimulus funds). The administration has been provided $8 million for this purpose.

The CNMI stands to receive a total of $44 million under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, of which $32.3 million is allocated for PSS.

The school system received the first chunk of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, $24.3 million, in October.

PSS and the Board of Education used the amount to restore 105 teacher positions and school renovations. The remaining balance of $8 million is expected within this year.

Saipan Tribune learned that in the past 22 years, the CNMI's share in the Compact Impact money has seesawed up and down, from $400,000 in 1993 to 1994, to $1.6 million in 1995, then to $1 million in 2001. In 2002, the CNMI received $2 million; $840,000 in 2003; and $5.1 million in 2004 through 2008.

NMI quarters available on Nov. 30

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands quarter-dollar, the final coin in the 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program, is scheduled for release to the Federal Reserve Bank on Monday, Nov. 30.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands quarter-dollar.

The coin's reverse (tails side) design represents the wealth of the islands in its natural resources of land, air and sea. Near the shore stands a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures. A canoe of the indigenous Carolinians represents the people's seafaring skills across vast distances. Two white fairy tern birds fly in characteristic synchrony overhead. A Carolinian mwar (head lei) composed of plumeria, langilang (Ylang Ylang), angagha (peacock flower) and teibwo (Pacific Basil) borders the bottom of the design near the inscription NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. The mwar is symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect.

Collectors may begin placing their orders for bags and rolls of commemorative quarter-dollar coins honoring the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on Nov. 30, 2009, at noon Eastern Time.

The bags and rolls contain general circulating coins struck on the production floors at the United States Mint facilities at Denver and Philadelphia.

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The bags of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands quarter-dollars are packaged in 100-coin bags priced at $32.95 each and 1,000-coin bags priced at $309.95 each. Each bag has a tag identifying the mint of origin and "Northern Mariana Islands." The two-roll sets, priced at $32.95 per set, include one roll each of 40 coins bearing the "D" and "P" mint marks. The distinctive packaging displays the mint of origin, "Northern Mariana Islands" and the dollar value of its contents. Both options display the genuine United States Mint logo.

The United States Mint will accept orders for the bags and rolls of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands quarters at its secure Web site, http://www.usmint.gov, or at the toll-free number, 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may call 1-888-321-MINT (6468). Please add $4.95 for shipping and handling to all domestic orders. Because of their size and weight, an additional charge of $7.95 per bag will be applied to orders for 1,000-quarter bags. ***(PR)***

Landowner sues DPL, DPW for alleged unlawful taking of land

A landowner has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Department of Public Lands and the Department of Public Works after the government allegedly took her land without compensating her.

Carmen C. Nosek, through her son, Frederick L. Nosek Jr., asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that she is entitled to fair and just compensation for the unlawful taking of her property.

The Noseks, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the court to rule as void and unenforceable the government's memorandum of understanding that conditions the compensation for the property upon the allocation of funding by the Legislature and subject to availability of funds.

Torres stated in the complaint that the CNMI certified Nosek's property for taking for purposes of a public roadway and utilities under the Land Compensation Program effective in 1990.

"Despite repeated promises that Carmen Nosek would be compensated for the taking of her land, it has become clear that the Commonwealth will not honor its promise," Torres said.

Carmen Nosek owns four lots on Saipan containing a total of 1,320 square meters. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

matters of local concern, no matter how inextricably intertwined they may be with federal affairs. But it cannot rely on the Covenant to ensure that result," said Friedman in a 39-page opinion that explained his Tuesday order dismissing two of the CNMI government's three-count lawsuit.

The CNMI, through the Jenner and Block law firm, had asked the court to prevent the federal government from acting in violation of the Covenant and urged the court to issue a permanent ban against the implementation of the federalization law in the Commonwealth.

In Count 1, the CNMI claimed that federalization is in violation of the Covenant in that it infringes on the right of the CNMI to self-government and abrogates that right without the CNMI's consent.

The CNMI argued, among other things, that the federalization of immigration and foreign worker-related labor matters in the CNMI violates sections of the Covenant which call for local control over local matters and require mutual consent for any changes to the Covenant.

The CNMI insists that Congress acted in excess of its authority in passing some provisions of the CNRA, and that those provisions must be stopped.

Friedman disagreed. He concluded

See FEDERALIZATION on Next Page

FITIAL

From Page 1

from implementing in its current form the interim final rule on the CNMI transitional worker program, which takes effect on Saturday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the United Workers Movement-NMI separately welcomed yesterday U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman's ruling granting the CNMI government's motion for a preliminary injunction preventing DHS from implementing its CNMI transitional worker (CW) classification rule.

"I am very pleased with this favorable decision by Judge Friedman. The interim final rule fails to comply with Public Law 110-229 and will be very damaging to the Commonwealth if it goes into effect in its present form," Fitial said in a statement yesterday.

Fitial, who turns 64 today, sued the federal government over federalization.

He urged DHS to consider the over 100 comments that have so far been filed on its transitional worker program rule.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Wednesday, Fitial reiterated that a federal takeover of local labor is "unnecessary."

"We don't have any problem having the federal government take over immigration. Let them control our border because we don't have the capabilities to do that, but we have a strong enforcement mechanism to control our labor. Why do they have to remove labor from us? It doesn't make sense and we're the only one. All the other [U.S.] territories, they control their own labor," he said.

'Green card'

Ronnie Doca and Rabby Syed, leaders of the workers group, hope that latest court ruling will give DHS more time to consider their concerns.

Workers groups in the CNMI want the federal government to grant "green cards" or legal permanent resident status to certain classes of nonresidents in the CNMI, including long-term foreign workers.

"We are happy with the ruling so DHS will have more time to look into our concerns. Among the most important things we are asking [for] is a better immigration for long-time nonresident workers, and a blanket authority for those with valid CNMI permits to re-enter the CNMI after a vacation or emergency exit," said Doca, board chairman of the group, which comprises thousands of foreign workers in the CNMI.

Worker groups have started a signature campaign asking President Obama and the U.S. Congress to grant "green cards" to certain foreigners in the CNMI, ahead of the May 10, 2010, deadline for Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to recommend to Congress whether a grant of permanent immigration status to nonresidents in the CNMI is necessary.

'Exit, entry'

DHS' interim final rule, which is supposed to take effect Saturday, prohibits foreign workers from re-entering the islands using only their valid CNMI work and entry permit.

Friedman said DHS could "promulgate a narrowly focused and temporary emergency regulation" that addresses only the "exit and entry" problems presented in the department's interim final rule.

Regulations by DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services would have required foreign workers to secure a CW-1 visa from a U.S. embassy for them to re-enter the CNMI, but only after they first secure a CNMI-only transitional worker status, which may take up to 60 days to acquire.

This means foreign workers can exit but not re-enter the CNMI up to at least early 2010, in order to secure a CW status and a CW-1 visa to comply with the DHS interim final rule.

DHS, however, repeatedly said that nonresident workers can exit the CNMI any time during the transition period from Nov. 28, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2014, but they cannot re-enter the islands without a CW-1 visa obtained from a U.S. embassy.

There is also a possibility that an applicant may be denied a CW-1 visa and therefore won't be able to re-enter the CNMI and continue working on the islands despite possessing a valid CNMI work and entry permit.

The Form I-29CW is a modified form of the Form I-29, but it is specifically used for the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker, or CW, program.

A "transitional worker" under P.L. 110-229 is defined as an alien worker who is currently ineligible for another classification under the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

Most of the foreign workers in the CNMI are from the Philippines and China, while others are from Korea, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Florida-based human rights activist and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal expressed hope that the comments so far submitted on the DHS interim final rule "should now be considered by DHS."

Many relate to travel restrictions and the requirement for a visa for a foreign worker to return to the CNMI after traveling for personal or medical reasons.

Friedman agreed with the CNMI that DHS had no reasonable basis for publishing the interim final rule without complying with the notice and comment provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

The judge also made clear that he was denying any possible effort by the U.S. Department of Justice representing DHS to obtain a stay of his order pending appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

Border control

The DHS transitional worker rule is supposed to take effect Saturday, when DHS' U.S. Customs and Border Protection takes over border control.

Edward H. Low, public affairs liaison at CBP's San Francisco office, earlier said that between 40 and 50 CBP officers will be on Saipan to take over immigration control at the Saipan International Airport at the stroke of midnight on Nov. 28.

But as of press time yesterday, Low said he's still checking to see what, if any, impact the court ruling will have on CBP operations.

Among other things, the federal takeover of local immigration means U.S. visas will be required of foreigners to enter the CNMI, just like Guam, Hawaii, and the rest of the United States, except for nationals of countries that are included in visa waiver programs.

The CNMI is the last U.S. territory that controls its own borders.

Fingerprinting and eye scan will also become main fixtures at the airport, just like anywhere in the U.S.

P.L. 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, signed by President George Bush in May 2008, not only applies federal immigration control in the CNMI but also gave the CNMI its first non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

As a result of the federalization law, the CNMI held its first delegate election in November 2008, won by Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

JUDGE

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman agreed with the CNMI government that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had no reasonable basis for publishing the interim rule without giving the CNMI and other stakeholders time to comment, as required under the Administrative Procedures Act.

To help alien workers leave and reenter the CNMI or for employers to hire needed off-island workers, Friedman suggested that DHS promulgate a narrowly focused and temporary emergency regulation that addresses these issues.

Labor special counsel Deanne Siemer said this is virtually a command for DHS to come up with an emergency regulation that would allow aliens in the CNMI to travel in and out.

Also, since no U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' regulations on CW status or business permits will come into effect tomorrow, the CNMI will continue to operate under its existing labor system except for entry and exit, Siemer said.

The interim rule defines the types of businesses that will be eligible to receive permits for alien workers. It sets a numerical limit on the number of permits that will be granted between Nov. 28, 2009 and Sept. 30, 2010. It also outlines requirements that must be met by employers seeking to obtain a permit.

The CNMI, through the Block and Jenner law firm, asked the court to bar the implementation of the regulations, citing that DHS violated the APA in promulgating them. The CNMI argued that DHS wrongfully dispensed with the notice-and-comment procedures required by the law.

The federal government countered that DHS' action does not violate the APA because it had "good cause" to dispense with the requirement.

In granting the CNMI's motion, Friedman said DHS first provided public notice of the rule when it published the rule in the Federal Register on Oct. 27, 2009.

"Since the interim rule was already in its final form on that date, it is undisputed that DHS failed to provide the notice and opportunity for comment typically required by the APA," Friedman said.

The judge concluded that upon consideration of the totality of the circumstances surrounding the issue, the CNMI is likely to succeed on its claim that DHS did not have "good cause" to dispense with the notice-and-comment procedures and thus violated the APA.

The federal government suggested that providing notice and an opportunity to comment prior to promulgating the rule was impracticable because Congress, in passing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law), imposed several burdensome administrative duties on DHS and only allowed the agency 18 months in which to fulfill them.

Friedman found this argument unpersuasive. He said the interim rule will dramatically alter the CNMI's current system for admitting guest workers, who constitute two-thirds of the CNMI's private workforce.

In short, the judge said, the rule will enact far-reaching changes that likely will have significant effects on the CNMI labor market, and it will do so despite the fact that it has not "been tested via exposure to diverse public comment."

Friedman found convincing the CNMI's arguments that residents and government have meaningful concerns about the rule.

Friedman cited that the criteria established by the rule for issuance of permits for new guest workers to employers may be inadequate.

As written, the judge pointed out, the rule requires employers seeking permits to "consider all available U.S. workers for the position" that is to be filled by a new guest worker, but does not require those employers to consider guest workers already present in the Commonwealth for the position.

To ensure that employers have "considered available U.S. workers," the rule only asks that employers attest that they have done so, Friedman said.

"The CNMI posits that such attestations may 'be prone to fraud and leave qualified U.S. citizens unemployed,' a matter it would have raised and documented if it had been given the opportunity to comment," he said.

The judge added that if he ultimately decides the merits of the CNMI's APA claim in the Commonwealth's favor, the damage done by DHS' violation of the APA cannot be fully cured by later remedial action.

He noted that once the program structured by the rule has begun operation as scheduled on Nov. 28, 2009, DHS is far less likely to be receptive to comments.

"If the interim permit rule is not enjoined prior to its effective date, the CNMI will never have an equivalent opportunity to influence the rule's contents," Friedman said.

The federal government has provided no evidence to show how many workers and businesses will be affected by a temporary delay in the implementation of the rule, and the court is aware of none.

Friedman said it is unclear that foreign workers otherwise eligible under the Immigration and Nationality Act will be able to leave the CNMI and reenter it within the first several weeks after Nov. 28, 2009, even if the rule is in place.

"Similarly, while the interim permit rule creates a mechanism whereby a CNMI employer may arrange to hire foreign workers from outside the Commonwealth, it is difficult to know whether employers will have much need for that mechanism in the weeks immediately following Nov. 28, 2009."

Friedman said the emergency rules to address the problem of foreign workers seeking to leave and return to the CNMI or employers in need of workers from outside the CNMI may be promulgated without notice and comment, since they fall within the APA's "good cause" exception.

"It is unfortunate that DHS may have to issue such ad hoc emergency rules. The court emphasizes, however, that this is a problem of the agency's own making," he said.

Had DHS released the rule earlier in the year and provided the public with notice and an opportunity for comment, the current problem would never have arisen, he said.

"DHS should not now expect to excuse its violation of the APA by pointing to the problems created by its own delay," Friedman said.

By failing to meet even the minimum standards set by the APA, DHS has also failed to comply fully with Congress' intent to secure the meaningful involvement of the Commonwealth in the transformation of the CNMI's immigration law, he said.

Friedman said the transitional work permitting program "is of great importance to the CNMI, since it has the potential to transform the nature of the Commonwealth's workforce."

"That program also involves an area—the regulation of immigration into the CNMI—about which the Commonwealth has significant expertise, having knowledge of the needs of its own economy and having operated its own immigration program for decades," he said.

The judge said the public interest will be best served if the rule is temporarily stopped so that it may be revised as necessary by DHS upon receipt of comments and advice from the CNMI and other parties.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 4

that under the express and unambiguous language of Section 503 of the Covenant, Congress was free after Nov. 3, 1986, to apply immigration and naturalization laws of the U.S. to the CNMI.

"As a result, the CNRA is a legitimate exercise of federal congressional authority so long as its challenged provisions qualify as being among 'the immigration and naturalization laws of the United States.'"

Friedman said so long as the CNRA qualifies as an "immigration and naturalization law," it does not infringe upon the "internal affairs" of the CNMI within the meaning of Section 103.

He said the CNMI's argument that the CNRA cannot be viewed as an "immigration law" is unpersuasive.

The judge said the CNMI is just plain wrong when it asserts that nothing in federal immigration and naturalization law permits an "employer-by-employer, worker-by-worker local labor permitting scheme."

"The fact that the application of federal immigration laws to the CNMI through the CNRA may have a dramatic impact upon the CNMI's labor force does not convert an immigration law into a labor law," he said.

Friedman said even if the court were to agree with the CNMI that the CNRA is not an immigration and naturalization law that Congress is specifically authorized by the Covenant to enact, the court will still find the CNRA valid under the Covenant.

The CNMI had argued that the provisions of the CNRA dealing with foreign workers already in the CNMI "have nothing whatever to do with border security" but are internal labor matters.

Friedman rejected this argument, saying this appears to be based on the assumption that "border security" is achieved only at the border and nowhere else.

"That assumption makes little sense here. Thousands of individuals who would have been ineligible to enter the CNMI under federal immigration law already reside in the CNMI," he said.

Obviously, Friedman said, the U.S. could not simply ignore these individuals and at the same time regard the CNMI's borders as "secure," because one of the principal ways the U.S. secures its borders is by requiring compliance with its immigration laws.

He said the CNMI wishes to characterize the regulation of foreign workers already admitted to the CNMI as a local matter because the CNMI's economy is dependent on the labor of foreign workers.

"In addition to being circular, that argument fails to recognize that the presence of thousands of foreign workers in the CNMI, few of whom would qualify to enter the CNMI under federal immigration laws, raises legitimate foreign policy and security concerns—concerns solely within the province of the federal government," Friedman said.

MHS

From Page 1

that saw the attendance of hundreds of employees from three islands.

Prior to her more than four years of teaching at MHS, Ornes was a language teacher at Hopwood Junior High School for two years.

MHS Principal Karen Borja described her as a true mentor and a role model to peers. She is also exceptional in her instructional organization and development of her lessons, incorporating activities for all type of learners.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ornes was on personal leave to visit her family abroad. This was her first time to be nominated and to actually bag the overall teacher of the year honor.

As the CNMI's Teacher of the Year for 2010, Ornes will represent the islands and compete in the national contest with all other U.S. states nominees. She will also get the chance to personally meet with President Barrack Obama, who will host a dinner for all TOYs in April 2010. Additionally, Ornes is entitled to join a space camp trip and attend a national science symposium next year.

Hailed as this year's best teacher aide was Balbina Solberg, a teacher assistant for students with special needs.

PSS also lauded the achievements of Ruby Hocog and Ariel Narvaez, who were selected as the Administrative and Maintenance Support Staff of the Year. Hocog works at Dandan

See MHS on Next Page

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34 CNMI immigration officers being re-assigned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said at least 34 remaining CNMI immigration officers have been or are being re-assigned to other local agencies so they would not completely lose employment once 40 to 50 U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers take over immigration control by Nov. 28.

From 72 employees in December 2008, the CNMI Division of Immigration is down to only about 30 weeks before the federal takeover.

The governor, who turns 64 today, said the remaining immigration employees are being re-assigned to other offices such as the Labor and Immigration Identification System and the Division of Customs.

"We're trying to re assign them to LIIDS, or even Customs for that matter so that they would not completely lose their employment. We are trying to accommodate all of them," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

For months, personnel at the local immigration office have expressed uncertainty and fear over losing their employment.

The governor said Melvin Grey had stepped down as immigration director, and has since been replaced by Vince Lizama in an acting capacity.

Fitial said the employment of local immigration officers is one of the issues that the administration has been raising with CBP.

"I asked CBP to help place those 34 immigration employees we now have," the governor said.

Fitial said he expects to meet with CBP or other DHS officials again.

In October, key CBP officials led by Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations Thomas S. Winkowski visited Saipan to meet with Fitial, lawmakers and other local officials to personally assure them that CBP is "fully ready" to secure CNMI borders by Nov. 28 as required by the federalization law.

Most of the CNMI immigration personnel who have resigned since last year went to the U.S. mainland or Guam, while others decided to stay on the islands.

CBP has posted job announcements for Customs CBP officer field operations, listing the CNMI as a duty location.

Of the over 70 CNMI immigration officers as of the start of the CBP job postings, 37 were reportedly automatically eliminated from consideration because of the 37-year-old age cutoff.

Because of such hiring qualification criteria, less than 20 of local immigration officers qualified. Of those who applied, only a handful reportedly passed some of the examinations but it's not clear whether any current CNMI immigration officer got a job at CBP.

CBP officers began arriving on Saipan last weekend in time for tomorrow's federal takeover of local immigration pursuant to Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act signed by President George Bush in May 2008.

The CNMI is the last U.S. territory that controls its own borders.

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MHS

From Page 5

Elementary School while Narvaez serves Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. *Saipan Tribune* learned that this was the third time that Narvaez bagged the overall Support Staff of the Year honors for PSS. The 44-year-old maintenance worker has been with GTC for five years and has been consistently nominated for three consecutive years.

Narvaez, according to school administrators and staff, has the uncanny ability to improvise, create, and adapt to any situation requiring his attention and skills. He is a talented carpenter, electrician, plumber, and an excellent all-around handyman.

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan bagged the Administrator of the Year award in the principal category, besting three other nominees: Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, Hopwood's Christine Masga, and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Lynnette Villagomez.

Demapan has been serving public schools for 19 years. She served as a teacher in San Antonio for two years before becoming the principal of Tanapag Elementary for five years and at Kagman Elementary School for 10 years.

San Vicente Elementary School's Betty Miller was also hailed as Administrator of the Year in vice principal category, besting nominees from all public schools. Prior to becoming SVES vice principal, Miller was a classroom teacher and former president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers.

Other awards

The Board of Education and the PSS leadership also honored outstanding personnel in other job categories, including Rebecca Flores, who emerged as the Counselor of the Year. Flores started as a WSR teacher in 1990 and was named the school's Teacher of the Year in 1996. When she became school counselor, she was voted in 2003 as its Support staff of the Year when counselors were classified in the same category. Last year, WSR named her again as its best support staffer until she was chosen as the school's best counselor this year.

Saipan Southern High School was also proud when Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Kiyoshi was chosen as the PSS Instructor of the Year for 2010. He was chosen for his active involvement and performance in the JROTC program. As a retired Army officer, he makes sure that his students understand the core values of the military and how to prepare themselves for the future. Kiyoshi has served almost 20 years in the educational system.

The Related Services Provider of the Year award was conferred on Ma. Cherry Johnson of the special education program while the central office's Fonzie Yoshida was named the pupil transportation staff of the year award.

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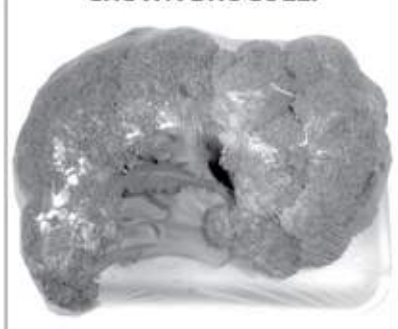

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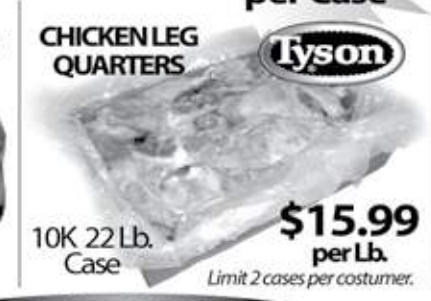

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Buckingham issues opinion on 'acting AG' issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has said that in the absence of a confirmed attorney general, no legal authority exists for an individual to serve as an acting attorney general without being nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Buckingham stated this in his first legal opinion since he was sworn in as CNMI attorney general on Aug. 17 of this year, or almost 11 months after the Commonwealth did not have an attorney general because of differences between Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Senate on the governor's appointment of Gregory Baka.

AG Opinion No. 2009-01, dated Nov. 6, 2009, stated that the CNMI Constitution has no provision for the appointment of an "acting" attorney general.

Buckingham's AG Opinion No. 2009-02, which was on housing benefits for off-island government hires, was made public earlier than the one pertaining to the issue of an acting attorney general.

In his two page opinion, Buckingham said the governor's sole authority to appoint an attorney general derives from Article III section 11 of the CNMI Constitution. There is no reference to an acting attorney general appointment, or a provision giving the governor authority to make such an acting appointment.

In addition to the constitutional requirement for the governor to appoint an individual to serve as the attorney general, the CNMI Constitution also provides that the Senate has the exclusive authority to confirm or reject the governor's appointee.

Under applicable laws, the appointed attorney general's name must be submitted to the Senate within 30 days of the appointment.

If the appointment is not confirmed by the Senate "within 90 consecutive calendar days from the date the person was appointed, the appointment is deemed rejected and shall automatically terminate, the position shall become vacant, and the person nominated shall not be renominated."

Buckingham said upon a review of the applicable law, there is no explicit constitutional or statutory authority for the proposition that a duly appointed and confirmed attorney general can, by contract, appoint an "acting" attorney general who will serve during periods when the attorney general has resigned, or is otherwise permanently unable to fulfill the duties of office.

"For the sake of clarity, this opinion recognizes that the authority to delegate an acting position rests with the legal incumbent of that particular office. Thus, consistent with the case law on this issue, an attorney general, who has been properly nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, may appoint an acting attorney general to serve in an acting capacity for a temporary period of time when he or she is temporarily unable to perform his or her duties," he said.

He also said in the event that no duly confirmed attorney general exists, the Office of the Attorney General still maintains its capacity to perform all its duties and functions.

For almost 11 months prior to Fitial's appointment of Buckingham and the Senate's confirmation, the CNMI did not have an attorney general since former Attorney General Matthew Gregory stepped down from his post in September 2008 to reenter private practice.

Fitial did not submit Gregory Baka's name to the Senate because, as deputy attorney general, Baka succeeded to the position of acting attorney general.

But the Senate was very vocal in their opposition to Baka, and Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes said he would use his influence to make sure Baka was not confirmed. Thus, the CNMI did not have an attorney general for almost 11 months.

On Aug. 12, the governor sent the Senate his nomination of Buckingham.

Although by law, the Senate has 90 days to act on the governor's nomination for an attorney general, the Senate under Reyes's leadership confirmed Buckingham's nomination on Aug. 14, or only two days after Fitial named him to the post.

The Senate confirmed him on a 9-0 vote, and senators took turns attesting to Buckingham's ability to lead the OAG and they also vowed to work cooperatively with him and the administration.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 27, 1998

Hotels up for sale

A group of investors from Dubai has been negotiating with the management of Riviera Resort Club and Koreana Hotel in connection with the sale of these two establishments. The businessmen already visited the Northern Marianas four times, inspecting the two hotels and finalizing the agreement, according to Tony Glad, president of Glad's Saipan, Inc., a real estate development firm. Koreana Hotel's selling price is $2.5 million while Riviera Resort is $15 million, said Glad. "We are still working on the deal. But we are almost certain with Koreana Hotel," he added. Negotiation with Riviera Resort is being made with bank officials in Seoul since the parent company, Woosung Construction Group, has declared bankruptcy in Korea.

Managaha mess laid at BPL doorstep

A group of local investors has criticized the Board of Public Land for dragging its feet in deciding the next franchise holder of Managaha Island, which it said should be blamed for the controversies haunting the bidding for the tourist resort. "This would not be much controversial had the Board of Public Land made its decision a long time ago," according to JM Guerrero, president of Marianas Marine Management, Inc., one of the companies seeking rights to run Managaha. According to Guerrero, as early as July the policy-making body has sought proposals to operate Managaha Island because the lease agreement of Japanese-owned Tasi Tours was to expire in September.

Nov. 27, 2000

Lending activities down 15 percent

In what appears to be an alarming sign that the CNMI economy is yet to witness even the slightest growth, private banking institutions have cut down lending activities in the third quarter of the year by as much as 15 percent. Overall amount of loan agreements approved by eight commercial and savings banks in the Northern Marianas shrunk by $44.5 million to $255.7 million in the third quarter of 2000 from $300.2 million of the same period last year. According to a report prepared by Jesse Palacios of the commerce department's Banking Division, only loan agreements with the Commonwealth government registered growth in the period under review.

Petition for Erap's ouster circulating on Saipan

A petition supporting the call of resignation or removal from office of Philippine President Joseph Estrada has been going around in the CNMI among overseas Filipino workers based here. More than a thousand have reportedly signed the paper that began circulating immediately after the political crisis confronting the Estrada administration hit last month. The one-page petition has sought support from the estimated 20,000 Filipino workers and residents on the islands for the mounting calls back home for their embattled president to step down.

Nov. 27, 2001

No budget yet for BB transition panel

Nine days into its official existence yet the Transition Committee remains without a budget, as the bill that would provide the funding for their operations remains pending at the House of Representatives. It may be, however, that the lower chamber will act on House Bill 12-424 during tomorrow's special session-the second in a series of marathon sessions that the House will hold to act on remaining pieces of legislations. As provided for in the proposed measure, the Legislature seeks to provide the transition panel with $275,000 that it would use for its operations and for the inaugural expenses of the incoming Babauta administration.

OPA faults CUC on overseas travel

Failure of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board to adopt travel policies similar to those of the CNMI government has resulted in losses through overpayments and unliquidated advances covering the period from October 1999 through March 2001. This was the result of an audit conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor on travel expenses incurred by CUC officials, Board members and personnel covering an 18-month period up to March this year. Besides this, the audit also found out that CUC management has not adopted a written and comprehensive travel policy manual to guide its Board members and personnel.

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NMHC

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$70,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, December 28, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION
OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

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CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *November 11, 2009*, approved of the Commonwealth Development Authority's (CDA's) recommendation to modify *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2009-01* for *PTI Services, Inc.* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Susupe*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately $*3.2 million* to *expand and operate its call center* located at *Susupe*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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Volume XIX, Issue No. 284

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EDITORIAL

Climate of denial

Last weekend was a good one for climate-change deniers. A hacker stole and released scores of documents, including personal e-mail exchanges, from a server at Britain's Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, a premier climate-change research center. "This is not a smoking gun; this is a mushroom cloud," proclaimed one skeptic.

Not quite. Assuming the documents are genuine—the authenticity of all has not been confirmed—critics are taking them out of context and misinterpreting at least one controversial e-mail exchange. None of it seriously undercuts the scientific consensus on climate change. But a few of the documents are damaging for other reasons.

According to one of the stolen e-mails, CRU Director Phil Jones wrote that he would keep papers questioning the connection between warming and human activity out of the authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report "even if we have to redefine what the peer-review literature is!" In another, Mr. Jones and Pennsylvania State University's Michael E. Mann write of organizing a boycott of an academic journal until it fires a "troublesome editor." Other e-mails speak of withholding data from climate-change skeptics. Many—including us—find global warming deniers' claims irresponsible and their heated criticism of climate scientists unconvincing. But the point of peer review is to let ideas stand or fail on their own, in public.

Whatever else comes out about the stolen documents, they have become examples of how not to react to climate-change deniers. You need not dig very far into the stolen documents to discover why climate researchers shouldn't overstate an already strong case. One discusses how scientists can't account for a recent, measured lack of warming—a fact that climate-change deniers use to ignore the massive body of evidence that global warming could be a dire threat. Really, it demonstrates that the Earth's systems are extremely difficult to predict in detail.

By our reckoning—and that of most scientists, policy-makers and almost every government in the world—the probability that the planet will warm in the long term because of human activity is extremely high, and the probability that allowing it to do so unabated will have disastrous effects is unacceptably large. The case that governments should hedge against that outcome is formidable enough. Climate scientists should not let themselves be goaded by the irresponsibility of the deniers into overstating the certainties of complex science or, worse, censoring discussion of them.

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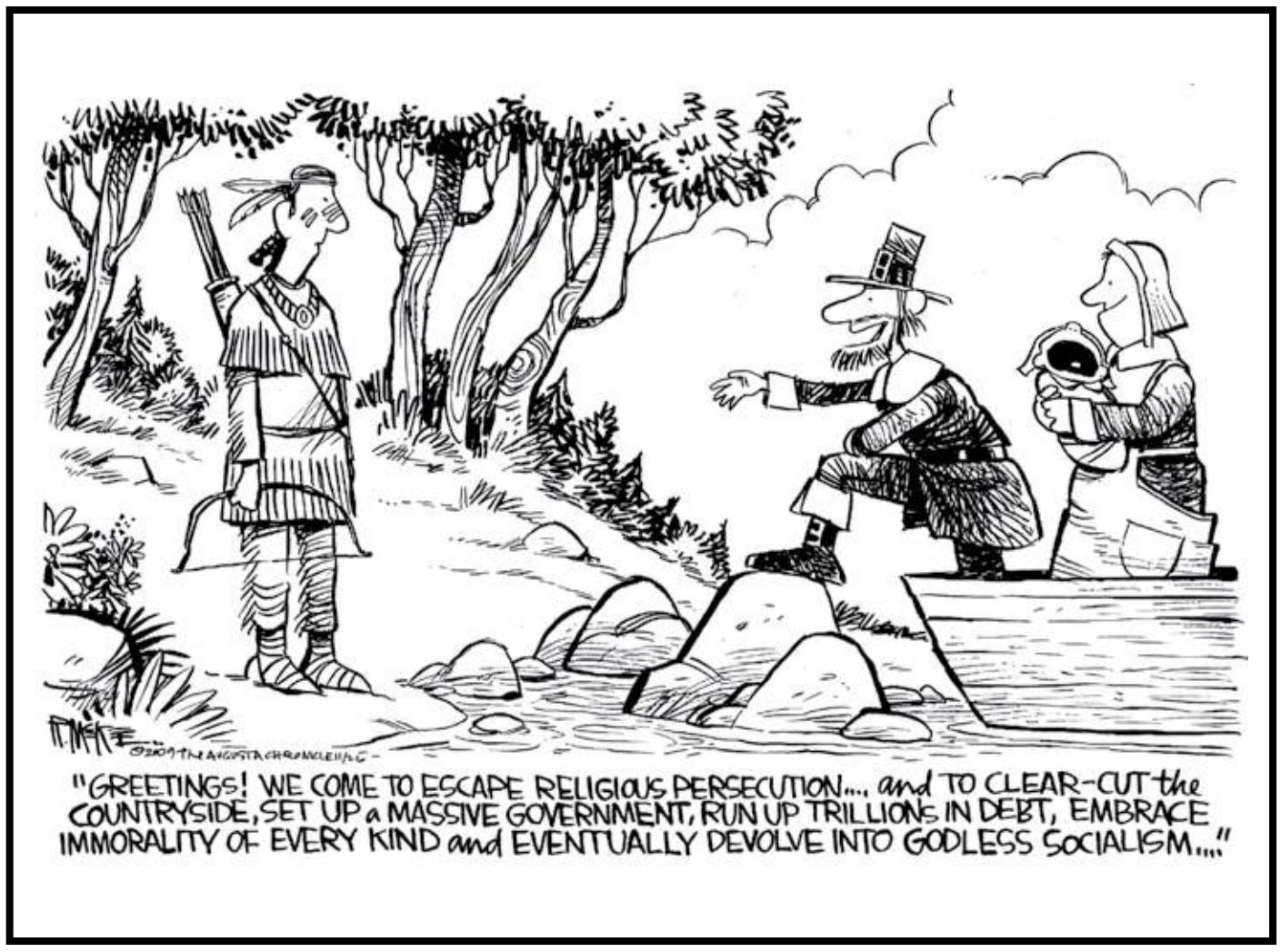
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Suffer not the laborers to come unto thee

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

A lawyer colleague lifted her hands up and bewailed, "They are abusing people at Labor and Immigration, by either sheer incompetence, or outright meanness."

Fair bet to say both. After seeing acting (temporary, not pretend) Labor Secretary Barry Hirshbein dart in and out of the former Halina Restaurant in San Antonio where the "umbrella" permit were being processed, directing traffic and sorting out applicants, one line for in-status holders and another for out-of-status residents, I concluded that there was some heart shown in the proceedings.

On the other hand, yesterday's news that the federal judge handling the CNMI's suit to stay the execution of the federal takeover of labor and immigration dismissed two of three complaints, would not have sat well with government functionaries, and in corporate behavioral games, those at the lower rung of a pecking order usually receive the ire of those above in moments of stress and confusion.

Learning that there were no guidelines (e.g., number system to indicate a first-come, first-serve service) to maintaining queue with a population that is queue-less in practice and orientation (ever try lining up for the train in the China, or a bus in the Philippines?), applicants devoid of shelter from sun and rain, and absent visible signage like bulletin boards or printed handouts to identify procedures and processes, and one can understand the bedlam that attended Wednesday's circus.

Today is the last day before the federal officials take over the administration of labor and immigration in the Commonwealth. We do not expect the comfort zones of many folks to be well equilibrated this day!

Between yesterday's turkeys, and tomorrow's restful Sabbath, we trust that TGIF would not just be a loud sigh of relief nor a swift resignation to the advent of a weekend, or an occasion for arrogant dismissive gestures over the less than 5 percent of votes cast separating our Heinz/Arnold vs. Ben/Eloy political tiff (not significant enough of a knockout blow vs. enough to claim bragging rights), but that we would take stock of the lessons learned and wisdom gained in the recent political exercise, and simultaneous public uproars, to be able to move forward in tandem and in concert.

And do so before a world curious and watching what we are going to do with a massive (relative to its ratio to local residents) alien population. The media image of having exploited a relatively docile and compliant imported labor force, not necessarily unique to us as it is a feature of any sovereign that ever imported labor as simply an economic commodity rather than a human resource asset, is something we will have to live with. But now we also have the chance to have our continuing treatment of their presence depicted as either objects of contempt or subjects of compassion. We have a choice.

Under the guise of protecting the interest of local businesses and their contracted workers, the current administration embarked on a judicial challenge to an Act of Congress. Two out of three claims have since been adjudged to be lacking of merit. The option to appeal is there but given public sentiment, we trust the new administration would rethink its current confrontational mode and consider a more collaborative stance toward their federal level counterparts. After all, as a territorial Commonwealth, we exist as a quadrant of Washington DC, either under the wings of Interior or the Pentagon, and barring a sudden gush of fossil fuel from any of the shelves in our sovereign domain, I suspect we will remain a ward of federal oversight for a long time to come.

The issue then of self-government is not conflict against larger powers, but active, intentional and rational cooperation with partnering colleagues.

Why not give our governor a fresh start? He can begin by collecting the customary and obligatory letters of resignation from all those appointed officials outside the purview of the Civil Service rules. Awakened citizenry will take the effort to offer studied and calculated inputs to possible appointments with an eye to effective bipartisanship and coverage of diverse interests. Can do?

Let there be a flowering of think tanks and task forces, commissions and committees, movements and interest groups, that will intentionally stoke the fires of citizens' participation as either deliberative or action bodies, voluntary or mandated.

The focus has been stated many times: given the resources we have (natural, human and technological), how do we ensure their judicious and sustainable utilization? That involves broad participation by a diverse audience. But more importantly, it entails a common inclusive story.

The old story had done its job, of the industry of the people of the land, and the venturesomeness of the people of the sea. We can no longer, however, just exist with the re-telling of the tenacity of the *taotao tanos* and the resiliency of the *taotao tasis*. Our ranks have since been diluted with legal and cultural patterns from Georgetown, New England and Alaska, medical practitioners from Canada and the Philippines, educators from the cold lakes of Minnesota and the freezing winds of the Midwest prairies and plains, machine operators from China and Thailand, clerical and administrative eyes from Southeast Asian lands, security guards from the subcontinent of Asia, enterprising and entrepreneurial investors from HK, Taiwan,

See SUFFER on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Be a high-tech Santa in 2009

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

What a difference a year makes. Last year, my more or less annual list of gift suggestions for the techie on your Commonwealth Christmas list was dead in the water because I couldn't find any "must have" goodies to recommend. This year is different: 2009 is the year of the netbook computer, thus proving that travel and technology are pretty much the same thing now. Saipan's professionals are constantly shuttling to Guam, Asia, and even the U.S. mainland, and this tempo is just going to increase as we scramble to dig into Asia's rising economies and Guam's military-based boom.

So, thanks to some input from a couple of *Saipan Tribune* readers, we'll look at the "travel tech" gift realm. And we'll look at some stuff that are affordable; under $20 in some cases.

I'm not going to rehash the netbook computer gig, we've already covered it this year; a good netbook is a true must-have. After owning a couple of brands, and laying hands (if only briefly) on every major brand, my current pick of the pack is the Samsung N110 with Windows XP. The street price is about $320 or so. This model came to my attention courtesy of Charles Reyes Jr., who, like me, spends a lot of time writing. The keyboard is the best I've found, the setup routine partitions the hard drive, it's as light or lighter than most others, and the battery seems to last seven hours or so. Incidentally, the hard drive partitioning routine has defaults that aren't very good, so if you go this route, contact me before you set it up and I'll send you an idea or two based on my experience.

If you have a netbook owner on your gift list, here's a great item: the Case Logic LNEO-10 Ultraportable neoprene notebook sleeve. True to the essence of a netbook, it is thin, light and minimalist. Contrary to the "sleeve" appellation, it has handles. The street price is typically under $20.

Still in the under $20 category, any netbook owner will want a stash of SD cards, since netbooks typically have integrated SD card readers. Picture a millimeter-thick postage stamp, and you get an idea of the size of an SD card. They hit fame and fortune as media for digital cameras. But I also use them like floppy disks now. For example, when I wanted to give my dad a compilation of photos and videos from a recent family gathering, I herded them onto a 4-gigabyte SD card and gave Dad that card. Based on the nominal capacities, it would take 2,778 of those old 3.5 inch floppy disks to equal the capacity of a single 4-gig SD card. Wow.

I've seen SD cards as large as 32 gigs, but 4 gigs seems to be the sweet spot for price. Try to find ones that come with little plastic protective wallets, they don't usually cost any more than the ones that come without.

OK, that's enough of computer stuff. Attorney Alan Barak, a very savvy traveler, has a couple of suggestions to offer for jetsetters. He recommends the First Class Sleeper, which is a long, cleverly engineered inflatable pillow that converts an airline seat into something the human body can actually feel comfortable in. Said Barak of the Sleeper: "It really does feel like the best armchair—excellent lower back support and a nice cushion around the neck." Price is $29.95, and Google finds it easily.

Mr. Barak also uses an active noise canceling headset. These headsets employ electronic magic to reduce the ambient noise of an airline cabin, thus offering a bit of quiet, or a good way to listen to MP3 files and such. Prices vary wildly; $50 for discount brands on sale, on up to $500 for the top of the line Bose. These things don't mesh with my ears, but most people like them.

Grounding our ambitions to merely on-island travel, I'll note that the Motorola T505 (about $80 if you can find one) is an excellent hands-free phone speaker arrangement for the car. It uses a Bluetooth link to the cell phone. Driving times on Saipan are so brief that only a chronic cell-phone yacker will need one of these, but if you have such a person on your gift list it's a good bet, and it's the only such device I've found that works worth a darn.

As you can see, this is a great gift season as the Commonwealth's peripatetic pros set their sights on 2010's opportunities.

Letters to the Editor

A dream of land and home ownership

Buenas yan saludo taotao Marianas, I am writing to share my reasons to vote to end Article XII in November 2011.

First, I would hope that going forward those that may have an opinion to maintain the status quo or end Article XII would conduct themselves professionally and not label or chastise individuals in a callous or derogatory manner. I agree with one and all this is a very sensitive subject but it does not need to be personal.

I begin by telling you that my wife and I are ordinary hardworking blue-collar to white-collar stiffs. When we returned to Saipan, I worked three jobs to survive and we excelled over time out of a necessity to raise a family of three and now putting them through college. As with countless others in our community, my family personally struggled. Nothing was handed to me on a silver platter. I had to endure hardships to accomplish what I have and am not ashamed of the fruits of my blood and sweat. I don't pretend to be unique; there are countless families and friends who have gone through the same ordeal.

My wife Nora was diagnosed with cancer many years ago. We, like many families on Island, were stunned by the news but the shock soon wore off to the realization we had to do something about it. No one at that time had access to a cancer (oncologist) specialist in the CNMI. Guahan's cancer center was devastated by a typhoon. We failed the CNMI medical referral committees' test for acceptance to be sent off-island for medical care. The Administration stalled our request for (medical emergency) access to our tax rebate, which was two years delayed. We eventually got it but not when we really needed it.

Well, at this point you may be asking yourself, "What does all this have to do with Article XII?" Well, if Article XII did not exist, I like many Americans across the United States, may have had access to credit markets that permit you to borrow against the *equity* in your home. Most of our banks no longer offer a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) portfolio because of the restrictions imposed by Article XII should a client default on their loan. And, as point of information, when banks did offer HELOC loans in the CNMI, it was 50 percent of the equity value and an excessively high interest rate, which isn't much when all is said and done.

Continuing my story, so without much in the way of cash, we, as with many families in the CNMI, emptied our savings, bloated our credit cards and had creditors coming after us from all sides over the years. Also, our only asset, our home, was on the brink of being foreclosed, though through it all, nothing was more important than Nora's life and despite our financial challenges she saw her oncologist every quarter. I did not care about debts (reckless, I know) but her life meant everything and at that time creditors became a blur to us.

The worst is (recently) behind us (knock on wood), thanks to the current Administration, CNMI Medical Referral and Committee and my wife's employer FHP Health Clinic/Take Care Insurance, we're getting back on our feet physically and financially. But I often wonder what other families have to go through when their government does abandon them, when they have no access to HELOC credit markets and are scraping by to stay alive? For our family, this was an incredulous experience, to say the least.

Another reason why we should do away with Article XII is for a reason a recent individual gave in a letter to the editor, concerning keeping the status quo. There are apparently over 3,000 applicants for homesteads in the CNMI. Majority of these applicants reside on Saipan and the truth of the matter is there just isn't enough public land to go around. So what does the future hold for young adults to break out and own their own home? Well, unless they have rich parents, inherit an estate, or win the lottery, at this stage, nothing. Why nothing? Because most banks in the CNMI will not lend money for mortgages unless you have an impeccable credit score, 720 and over, a co-signer, reasonable collateral, the 30 percent to 50 percent down and closing costs for the mortgage. What do current and future generations have to look forward to, without access to credit markets? Living with Mom and Dad is not a sustainable solution.

Land values are distinctly lower (suppressed) in the CNMI than our neighboring island of Guahan. This has everything to do with Article XII (local market and not global market of buyers) and our failure to maintain zoning and building codes in the CNMI. But let's stick with Article XII. Last year a good friend from Guahan, his parents in their 60s, used their property in the outskirts of Dededo Village to build a modest two-bedroom home with all the bells and whistles. They did not have to put a penny down as their 1,000 sq. meter *raw* property (which was appraised at $55.00 a sq. meter) had sufficient appraised equity (collateral) to meet their down payment and closing costs. This scenario could and would exist in the CNMI if Article XII did not exist. I ask all of you that are currently landless and homeless, "How are you going to own land and a home in the CNMI without access to credit markets and reasonable appraised land values to obtain a loan?" Private land and condominiums will be your only options.

My last reason for this letter is "fairness." I believe Article XII was a good thing when we started this wonderful CNMI over 30 years ago. Majority of people were not educated in the complexities of real estate transactions. Some still may not be. *But* that's why we have realtors, bank advisers, attorneys and many individuals on this island that can be tapped for advice. You're not alone anymore!

Further, we know many of our Chamorro and Carolinian people have married outside of our ethnicity. Their spouses and their children's children are grossly disenfranchised in familial estates. I ask you why anyone brought into a matrimonial union and may have offspring in the process, why we should continue to discriminate against our own? Why doesn't this loving community of indigenous people not recognize that our people are choosing other ethnicities and embrace them as a member of our society?

Why should we use culture in the discourse for keeping Article XII? Land has *nothing* to do with culture, it is an asset that should be shared amongst all that are in union with your family. How you choose to do so, absent Article XII, is your business; it should not be the business of our government! To be clear, I am speaking only about Article XII which governs the ownership of private lands. Please resist the urge to confuse this with Article XII, which deals with public lands. I ask only that I be allowed to manage my private land as I see fit. There is no obligation for *anyone* to sell *their* land if they don't want to.

I know my reasons may not be unique and may have been contemplated by most individuals that have sat and seriously thought this issue through. I hope we do not lose sight of the opportunities to grow our society, provide for that dream of land and home ownership and, lastly, to cite a very pointed quote I believe in: "No man is and island."

Alexander A. Sablan (PITU)
Member, Citizens to Change Article XII

Upside down

Mr. Ambrose Bennett's assessment of the runoff election is like singing the chorus L-E-O-N, L-E-O-N correctly wrong or wrongly right. Obviously, his notes of the chorus N-O-E-L, N-O-E-L was upside down. In the eyes of the indigenous people he is reviled as a popinjay or a visionary fool. If the result does not conform to his conceited persona, what branch of democracy would now be his modus operandi? Enjoy the days in the next term of this administration and sleep well at night for a change. Make home with the indigenous people and you will be the first to be recognized for standing and guarding the rights of the indigenous people to live and prosper in their ancestral lands for the sake of the CNMI.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, District 2, Saipan

SUFFER

From Page 10

Korea, Singapore, China and Japan, construction workers particularly veterans from the Middle East and crews from military bases and installations, and touring visitors from many lands and climes, to name recent additions to our island's diversity.

Our story can no longer be an Us vs. Them dichotomy—racially or ideologically. We have become a part of the scientific-urban-secular matrix of our glocal village. The gifts we bring to this new heritage is what now needs to be transmitted in our educational system, and reflected in the policies, programs and projects of Commonwealth governance.

The world awaits a birthing. Let the reinvention of the CNMI begin.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

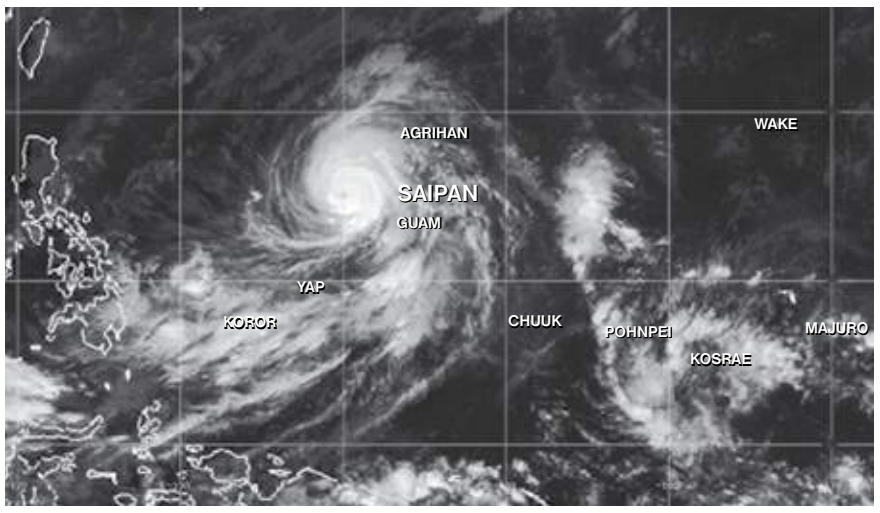
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲44	▼26
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲52	▼43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Manila	Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Rain	▲78	▼55
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼54
New York	Rain	▲46	▼39
Osaka	Cloudy	▲63	▼46
Paris	Cloudy	▲50	▼41
Pusan	Cloudy	▲57	▼38
Rome	Rain	▲60	▼54
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
Seoul	Sunny	▲45	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Nida (26W) is centered 310 miles west-northwest of Guam at 15N140E moving northwest at 11 mph with maximum sustained winds of 160 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the center. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring farther north and east of the center within 100 miles of a line from 17N140E to 17N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen east of Nida just west of the Marianas within 30 miles of a line from 16N142E to 11N143E. A monsoon tail has developed south of Nida over Koror and south of the Marianas and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 7N130E to 9N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within the monsoon tail. For more information on Super Typhoon Nida, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends from Super Typhoon Nida at 15N140E southeastward through a circulation centered south of Kosrae near 4N163E to end at EQ169E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the circulation around Kosrae between the equator and 8N from 156E to 168E. A shear line cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 20N130E to 25N146E. An upper-level low is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 11N and 17N from 153E to 156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:17 AM Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:31 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:34 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:41 PM	1:26 AM
Saturday	2:19 PM	2:15 AM
Sunday	3:00 PM	3:07 AM
Monday	3:46 PM	4:02 AM
Tuesday	4:38 PM	5:01 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Motorists cautioned vs cyclists

PIC would like to notify to all motorists on the morning of Dec. 5 to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capital Hill where the bikers will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all. ***(PR)***

Distribution schedule for umbrella permits

The Department of Commerce said that all umbrella permits that have not been picked up will be distributed today, Nov. 27, 2009, beginning at 8:30am to 9pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan. The Multi-Purpose Center is located next to the Department of Public Safety in Susupe.

Thus far, only about 61 percent of the approximately 2,000-plus previously issued umbrella permits have been picked up by investors and students. More umbrella permits are expected to be issued tomorrow. Commerce encourages those who have not picked up their permits to do so as Nov. 27, 2009 is Commerce's last day for umbrella permit distribution. Umbrella permits for the Immediate Relatives of all Commerce permit holders will be distributed by the Department of Labor. ***(DOC)***

AAFES sets Black Friday sale

The Army Air Force Exchange Store will have their first ever after Thanksgiving Sale or Black Friday at the Army Reserve Center on Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, Starting at 8am until 6pm. Only Military ID cardholders are authorized to enter and buy. No ID, no entry. For more information or questions, call the Military/Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2605. ***(PR)***

Korean language classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center's Korean Language School is providing free Korean language classes at the Northern Marianas College as a program of CDI from Nov. 27 to Dec. 18. The school also seeks comments and advice from the public for the next session. The new session will be a basic Korean language program. Don't hesitate and send your free opinion and answers to the following questions. (1) What time is the best time for you to join NMC's Korean language program? (2) What day do you think is good? (3) What content do you want to learn in Korean language? Contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221 or e-mail korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NMC workshop on livestock healthcare and management postponed

The Northern Marianas College's Workshop on Alternative Herbal Medicine for Livestock Healthcare in the Western Pacific, which was scheduled for Nov. 24-25, 2009, has been postponed. A new date, time, and venue will be announced within the next few weeks. For more information, contact the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service at 234-5498 ext. 1708. ***(NMC)***

MCS Theatre Club presents musical

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents a musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*, featuring musical performances from the award-winning Saipan Southern High School Manta Band and The Wise Men.

Performances will be held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa and will start with a dinner show on Friday, Dec. 4, with dinner at 6pm and the performance at 7pm. Cost is $35. Regular show is on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7pm. Cost is just $5.

Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended. Tickets are available from cast and crew members or at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit http://mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. This show is made possible, in part, with support from IT&E. ***(PR)***

Little League sets baseball season

The Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. is informing all interested teams, coaches, managers and sponsors that the upcoming Little League baseball season is tentatively scheduled to start on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. Games in the Little League (Majors) will be played at the Miguel B. Pangelinan (Tan Ge) Softball Field while the Juniors, Seniors and Big League games will be played at the Francisco M. Palacios (Tan Ko) Baseball Field in Oleai.

Entrance fee remains at $500 and is payable to Saipan Little League BaseballL Inc. Rosters and other pertinent information such as copies of birth certificate for new players and health insurance must be received by the league no later than Jan. 13, 2010.

For more information regarding the above documents, call Player Agent Piding Tenorio at 287-8091, or Walter Macaranas at 483-9258. ***(PR)***

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Tenderloin District takes over Club V

Club V, the official party venue of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be hoppin' and poppin' to the beat of the latest band to hit the town, the Tenderloin District.

A six-man ensemble, the Tenderloin District will have its debut performance today, Nov. 27, at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V with its own mix of R&B hits, hip-hop and party music, and dancehall favorites. It will be the first band to perform at Club V since the departure of the Art East band in April this year.

Headlined by vocalists Kobe Tayo and Reeve Henry, Tenderloin District also features the musical stylings of George Saligan on lead guitar, Josh Sanchez on keyboards, Bugs Servales on bass guitar, and Mark Ayangco on percussion (drums).

Formed in February 2008, the group has been a fixture in various watering holes and hotels in the Philippines, such as Strumms, Hotel Alabang, Sofitel, and Metro 5. This is their first gig abroad as a group but they've individually performed with other bands in other countries, such as Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, and Beijing, China.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

The Tenderloin District. From left, George Saligan (lead guitar), Josh Sanchez (keyboards), Bugs Servales (bass guitar), Kobe Tayo (vocalist), Reeve Henry (vocalist), and Mark Ayangco (drums).

Reeve said it took a three-month process for them to land the Saipan stint. The first tryout was held at the Baga Berde in Roxas Boulevard, Manila, and so many groups showed up to audition that it lasted from 12 noon to midnight, each band doing three to four songs. The second and final audition was held at Strumms in Makati City, with five bands duking it out for the chance to perform on Saipan.

Reeve said their specialty is rhythm and blues, hip-hop, and dance music but they are also open to requests from the audience.

Although an all-male group, Reeve said they have no problem doing covers of songs by female artists. "We have our own version of the songs. We add to them and infuse these songs with our own personality," he assured.

When asked if they knew about Saipan before coming here, most of them said they've already heard about the islands from other bands. "Most of the remarks were positive," said Servales. "They told us that people here are hospitable and that the place is nice, like we're on vacation."

For tonight's debut performance, Tenderloin District promises an electrifying performance that'll be sure to rev up the island's nightlife.

"We would like to invite people to come and watch tonight's show. We promise to give them world-class entertainment and we will try our best to give them a great time," said Reeve.

Tenderloin District will be on Saipan for the next three months and will be performing at the Club V on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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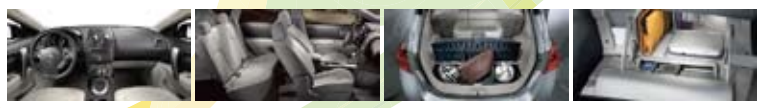

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6 Japanese ballet stars coming for Dec. performance

Six international ballet dancers from Japan will take part in this year's Glushko Academy's Spectacular Holiday Ballet performances at 7pm each night on Dec. 4, 5, and 6 at Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque.

For three nights, Saipan audiences will be treated to three top-caliber performances that will feature 10 international ballet stars from Russia, Japan, and Korea.

For the first time this year, the show will have a dance couple from Osaka. Accomplished brother and sister Keisuke and Asami Takai are currently working together for the Swansea Ballet Russe in Ireland.

After starting their ballet training in Osaka, they chose to continue their training with top ballet schools in Russia. For four years, Asami trained at the Moscow Ballet Academy and Keisuke trained with the Vaganova Ballet Academy in Saint Petersburg.

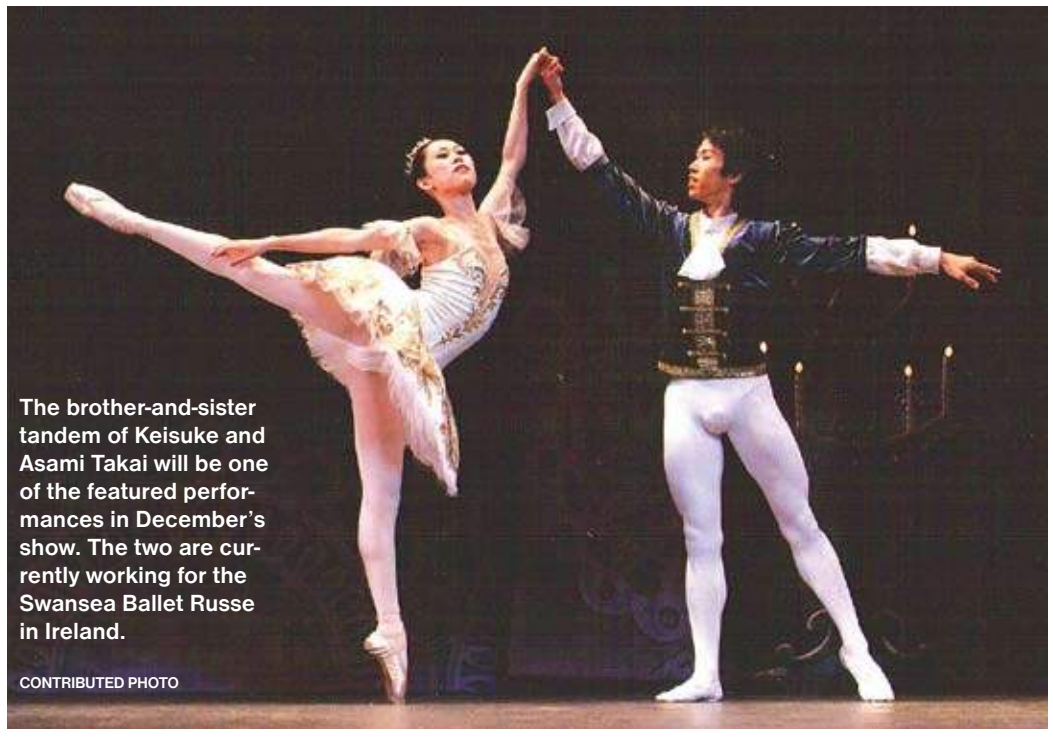
Since then, they have literally traveled around the world dancing. Asami Takai was a finalist at the 2005 Japan Grand Prix Ballet Competition and a finalist in the 2006 National Japanese Ballet Competition in Nagoya.

"Also, for the first time this year, we will have four dancers from the Takagi Ballet in Tokyo. These four Takagi dancers will round out the talent for our performances this year, as they too are exceptional ballet dancers," said Anna Glushko, founder of the Glushko Academy.

All six Japanese dancers say it will be their first time on Saipan, and they are happy with the opportunity to bring their talent to this remote part of the Pacific.

Tickets are available from any of Glushko's Academy's students, students' parents, Shell gas stations, and Shirley's Restaurant in Garapan.

For more information, call Glushko at 483-6271. ***(PR)***



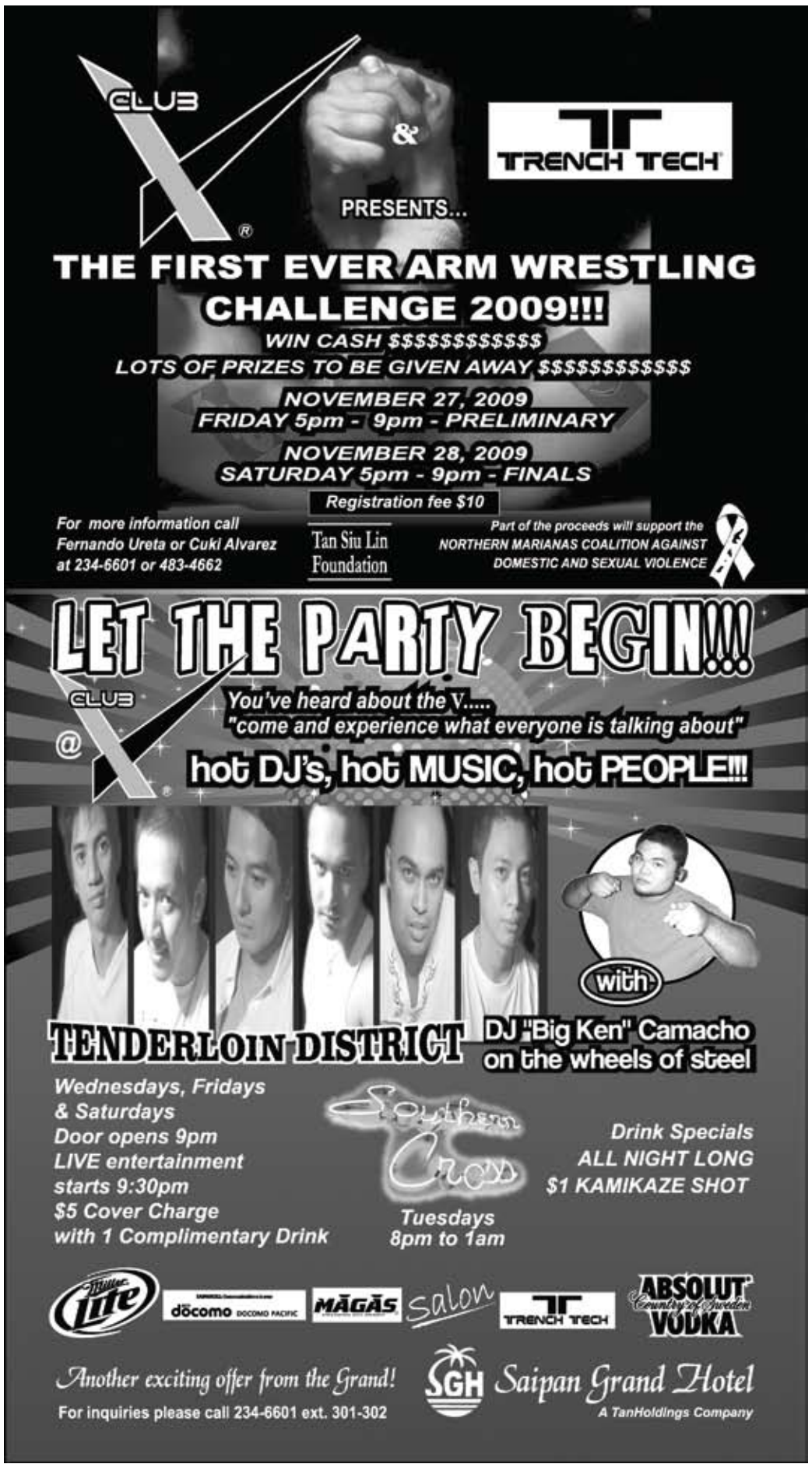
The brother-and-sister tandem of Keisuke and Asami Takai will be one of the featured performances in December's show. The two are currently working for the Swansea Ballet Russe in Ireland.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

This is a belated birthday shoutout to Tammy Ruak and Elsa Yoshida! Tammy celebrated her special day on Nov. 25, 2009, while Elsa marked hers on Nov. 26, 2009. We hope you both enjoyed your special day! Greetings come from your friends and family.



Three missing canoes with 24 aboard found near Chuuk

Search continues for one canoe with six aboard

CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia—Search and rescue controllers with the U.S. Coast Guard in Honolulu and Apra Harbor, Guam, have located 24 mariners in a large-scale joint search near Chuuk, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009.

The 24 are aboard three canoes manned by master navigators, but rescuers are still searching for one large canoe with six mariners aboard.

A C-130 long-range search plane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu and a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion crew from Anderson Air Force Base on Guam have been searching since Monday for the fourth canoe.

Federated States of Micronesia officials are also conducting search patterns to find the missing six mariners.

The Coast Guard first received notice that 30 mariners in four large canoes were reported missing early Sunday by Chuuk's search and rescue coordinator. The Coast Guard C-130 air crew was able to respond rapidly due to being in the area for an unrelated search.

The Coast Guard was advised two canoes with 13 mariners beached on the small island of Onari in good condition Wednesday afternoon.

The Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) vessel Fair Sky located another canoe approximately 110 miles north of Pulusuk Island with 11 mariners on board later that day. The Fair Sky crew resupplied those aboard the canoe with food, water and other supplies, but the mariners refused transportation assistance so they could continue their trip.

"We're pleased we located 24 of the mariners," said Lt. Max Seda, a search and rescue controller with the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu. "But we're still coordinating closely with the Navy and other rescuers to locate the remaining six."

Search crews have searched an area of approximately 11,000 square miles. The weather on scene was reported to be southeast winds of five to 10 mph and waves of six feet. ***(USCG)***

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Matson to increase shipping rates in 2010

It will cost $120 more for westbound and eastbound containers to be shipped through Matson Navigation for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The company said Tuesday the rate increase will take effect on Jan. 31, 2010.

Matson said it estimates the increase will raise rates by an average of 3.8 percent. Matson also is raising its terminal handling charge by $125 per westbound container and $60 per eastbound container.

The rate increase will also apply to the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

The basic rate doesn't include fuel surcharges, which have been seesawing this year as the result of swings in the price of oil.

"This rate increase will help offset rises in operating costs and support ongoing investments in our Hawaii service," said Dave Hoppes, senior vice president, ocean services, in a statement. "While Matson recognizes this is a difficult time economically, this rate adjustment is consistent with our long-standing philosophy of implementing modest, incremental increases as necessary to maintain the highest level of service to our customers."

Hoppes said terminal handling costs make up about 40 percent of Matson's operating costs.

Matson will file the increase with the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Maritime Commission. The rate increase is expected to help offset rises in operating costs and support ongoing investments in Guam and Micronesia.

Matson last raised its shipping rates in January 2009.

Oakland, Calif.-based Matson is a wholly owned subsidiary of Honolulu-based Alexander & Baldwin Inc. ***(PR)***

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Tang 22 qts. $6.99

Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. $6.99

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99

Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99

Real Fresh Milk (Regular only) $20.99 /CASE 236 ml. $16.99

Enfamil LIPIL Lipil 25.7 oz. $29.99

Enfamil Lipil with Iron 8 oz by 16 cans $41.99 per case

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Shasta Drinks Dr. Pepper 12oz (warm or cold) $9.99
Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) $12.99

Pepsi Regular Warm Only $16.99 /CASE

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only 3 days only (11/27 - 11/29) $24.99 $25.99

Education Day 2009

TEACHER AIDE OF THE YEAR

Balbina Solberg, left, of Oleai Elementary School, stands up as she was announced the overall winner of the Teacher Aide of the Year Award at a ceremony Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan, second from right, poses with fellow nominees during a Public School System awarding rites Wednesday night. Demapan was chosen administrator of the year in the principal category.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR

Joaquin Kiyosi, seated center, is named the Public School System instructor of the year at an awards ceremony Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR

Rebecca Flores of William S. Reyes Elementary School stands up as she emerged the Counselor of the Year by the Public School System Wednesday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

VICE PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

San Vicente Elementary School's Betty Miller, seated-second from right, reacts as she was named overall administrator of the year by the Public School System in the vice principal category Wednesday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Teachers and other school staff, along with their families, applaud the winners of the 2009 educators of the year awards ceremony Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Year after NY stampede, Black Friday gets makeover

VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. (AP)—Victoria Rogers had originally planned to make an early stop the day after Thanksgiving last year at the Walmart store in Valley Stream on Long Island. Her last-minute decision against it might have saved her life.

"We saw the mob, and we said no," she said. "Walmart's not the store."

What she saw that day was no ordinary crowd of shoppers, but a throng police say jammed through the doors upon the store's opening in a mad dash for holiday savings, trampling a guard to death.

"No price can be worth someone's life," said Rogers, of the New York City borough of Queens, on a recent visit to the same store.

One year later, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is embroiled in lawsuits, appealing citations and instituting companywide changes, including staying open 24 hours on Thanksgiving, and has inspired voluntary federal guidelines outlining what other retailers should do to avoid the same result.

"What happened is tragic, and we're still saddened by it," said Daphne Moore, spokeswoman for Wal-Mart Stores, based in Bentonville, Ark. "We are committed to looking for ways to make stores even safer for our customers and associates."

Joe LaRocca, senior asset protection adviser for the National Retail Federation, said the trade group worked with retailers to come up with its own guidelines for managing crowds during special events, including the day after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday because it is traditionally considered the day stores break into profitability for the full year.

AP

In this Nov. 28, 2008 file photo, Frankie Lee, first in a line of several hundred shoppers spending their night outside an Oakland, Calif. Wal-Mart, rubs his eyes shortly before the store opened at 5 a.m.

Dollar falls to 14-year low vs yen, touching 86.51

TOKYO (AP)—The dollar tumbled to 14-year low against the Japanese yen Thursday after indications U.S. interest rates will remain low and that the Federal Reserve isn't overly concerned about the dollar's slide.

The dollar sank to 86.51 yen in Tokyo trading, the lowest since July 1995.

Analysts said some investors were selling the dollar to buy gold, which surged to another record Thursday.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Japan "will take appropriate steps if foreign exchange rates move abnormally."

A strong yen is generally seen as bad for Japan's economy because it erodes overseas income for the country's big auto and electronics exporters.

Panasonic Corp. President Fumio Ohtsubo described the yen's appreciation as "very severe" to reporters, saying it was an added blow given the already weak state of the economy.

The dollar has also been falling against the 16-nation euro, which rose to a 15-month high Wednesday. It eased to $1.5114 on Thursday from $1.5132 late Wednesday.

The renewed slump in the dollar was driven largely by the publication Tuesday of the minutes to the Fed's last rate-setting meeting on Nov. 3-4.

AP

In this May 10, 2006 file photo, a one euro coin is posed on top an U.S. one dollar bill in Frankfurt, central Germany.

Tight economy forces some to stay home for holiday

CHICAGO (AP)—There's still family, turkey and football, but one Thanksgiving tradition is taking a hit this year. Millions of Americans are spending the holiday at home, saying the poor economy has made it unaffordable to hit the road or board a plane.

"It's too expensive," said Benita Hall, 24, a nurse's aide who can't afford to travel from Cincinnati to Atlanta to see her mother and siblings. "It's depressing because you want to be with your family for the holidays."

Nearly 38 million people are expected to take trips this year, slightly more than last year but 20 million fewer than in 2005 when the economy was better, according to AAA auto club. Air travel is expected to drop 6.7 percent this holiday compared with last year, AAA said.

While shopping for food for her holiday meal, Spring Clarke of Lubbock, Texas, said she couldn't afford to travel to Austin to be with family this Thanksgiving. Gas for the 740-mile road trip would take a chunk of change she can't spare.

"A hundred and sixty dollars is a phone bill, it's most of our electric bill," Clarke noted. "I'm not going home because of the economy. Can't do it."

Among those who are traveling, many are opting for cheaper alternatives to flying amid a sour economy that is still hitting household budgets hard.

Good news raises hopes recovery won't fizzle

WASHINGTON (AP)—A flurry of good news this week—including falling jobless claims, stronger consumer spending and higher new-home sales—suggests the economic rebound, modest though it is, might just be here to stay.

While analysts caution that the recovery will be too sluggish to stop the unemployment rate from rising, the reports are at least encouraging enough to calm fears of a dreaded "double-dip" recession.

"This recovery continues to trudge ahead," said economist Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "It is not a gallop. But it is still forward movement."

Looked at together, the reports the government issued Wednesday signaled that the final quarter of 2009 at least got off to a decent start. And holiday sales should be slightly better than last year's figures, which were the worst since at least 1969.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AIG resolves all legal disputes with Greenberg

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. has agreed to settle all legal disputes with its former chairman Maurice "Hank" Greenberg, the company said late Wednesday. The insurance company, which was bailed out by the government and is now owned by U.S. taxpayers, also resolved its complaints against former Chief Financial Officer Howard I. Smith. AIG said it will pay up to $150 million in past legal fees and expenses for both Greenberg and Smith. The agreement calls for the reimbursements to be reviewed by a third party. Under the terms of the agreement, AIG will also return a Persian rug from the company's headquarters to Greenberg, as well as photographs of Greenberg with Chinese leaders in AIG's Shanghai building. Greenberg will also have access to AIG's archives to write his memoirs.

Fed tightens conflict of interest rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve on Wednesday tightened the conflict of interest restrictions governing the boards of directors of its 12 regional banks. The new rules were passed to deal with potential conflicts such as one that involved Stephen Friedman, a former chairman of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. The requirements take effect immediately and spell out the obligations of directors with ties to financial institutions that change status while the official is serving on a Fed regional board. Friedman got a waiver to continue serving as chairman of the board of directors of the New York Federal Reserve Bank even though Goldman Sachs had switched its status during the height of the financial crisis to become a bank holding company, which is regulated by the Fed. It had formerly been an investment bank.

Toyota to replace gas pedals on 4 million vehicles

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota plans to replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals can get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration, a flaw that led to the sixth-largest recall ever in the U.S. The repairs are a critical step to restoring the reputation of the world's biggest automaker, which suffered a blow when the recall was announced in September after years of making safe, reliable cars and trucks. In plans outlined Wednesday, dealers will offer to shorten the length of the gas pedals by three-fourths of an inch beginning in January as a stopgap measure while the company develops replacement pedals. New pedals will be installed by dealers on a rolling basis beginning in April, and some vehicles will get a brake override system as a precaution.

Stock Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,725.20 Down 15.80 (-0.33%)
HONG KONG	22,369.61 Down 242.19 (-1.07%)
JAKARTA	2,430.42 Down 31.11 (-1.26%)
TOKYO	9,393.18 Down 48.46 (-0.51%)
K. LUMPUR	1,273.04 Up 2.04 (0.16%)
MANILA	3,089.82 Up 25.52 (0.83%)
SINGAPORE	2,778.70 Down 14.14 (-0.51%)
SEOUL	1,609.92 Down 1.96 (-0.12%)
BANGKOK	691.07 Down 4.62 (-0.66%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,464.40 30.69
NASDAQ	2,176.05 6.87
S&P	1,110.63 4.98

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0858
British Pound	0.6006
Canadian Dollar	1.0506
Chinese Renminbi	6.8266
Euro	0.6625
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501
Indian Rupee	46.2950
Indonesian Rupiah	9,410.0000
Japanese Yen	86.5190
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3825
New Zealand Dollar	1.3835
Philippine Peso	46.7400
Singapore Dollar	1.3805
South Korean Won	1,154.6500
Swiss Franc	0.9958
Taiwan Dollar	32.1840
Thailand Baht	33.1100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama to vow greenhouse emissions cuts in Denmark

WASHINGTON (AP)—Putting his prestige on the line, President Barack Obama will personally commit the U.S. to a goal of substantially cutting greenhouse gases at next month's Copenhagen climate summit. He will insist America is ready to tackle global warming despite resistance in Congress over higher costs for businesses and homeowners.

Obama will attend the start of the conference Dec. 9 before heading to Oslo to accept the Nobel Peace Prize. He will "put on the table" a U.S. commitment to cut emissions by 17 percent over the next decade, on the way to reducing heat-trapping pollution by 80 percent by mid-century, the White House said.

Cutting U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by one-sixth in just a decade would increase the cost of energy as electric utilities pay for capturing carbon dioxide at coal burning power plants or switch to more expensive alternatives. The price of gasoline likely would increase, and more fuel efficient automobiles—or hybrids that run on gasoline and electricity—likely would be more expensive.

Still, there is widespread disagreement over the cost to consumers.

Obama's promise of greenhouse emissions cuts will require Congress to pass complex climate legislation that the administration says will include an array of measures to ease the price impact. The bills before Congress, for example, would have the government provide polluters free emissions allowances in the early years of the transition from fossil fuels, as well as direct payments to many consumers facing high costs.

AP

President Barack Obama, right, pets a turkey, Courage, the day before Thanksgiving, during a ceremony to pardon the bird in the North Portico of the White House in Washington Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009 as Chairman of the National Turkey Federation, Walter Pelletier and his wife Elizabeth Pelletier, look on.

Couple slips though security to crash state dinner

WASHINGTON (AP)—Crashing a state dinner at the White House apparently takes a security breakdown as well as some kind of nerve.

The Secret Service is looking into its own security procedures after determining that a Virginia couple, Michaele and Tareq Salahi, managed to slip into Tuesday night's state dinner at the White House even though they were not on the guest list, agency spokesman Ed Donovan said.

President Barack Obama was never in any danger because the party crashers went through the same security screening for weapons as the 300-plus people actually invited to the dinner honoring Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Donovan said.

Donovan confirmed the identities of the couple. The Washington Post, which first reported on their evening out, said the Salahis were well-known in the Virginia horse-country set and were being considered for the Bravo reality TV show "Real Housewives of D.C."

This screen image made from Michaele Salahi's Facebook page shows a photo of, Tareq Salahi, left, Vice President Joe Biden and Michaele Salahi, right, at the White House state dinner in Washington on Tuesday Nov. 24, 2009.

AP

Activist group posting 573,000 9/11 pager messages

NEW YORK (AP)—An activist group has begun posting 573,000 pager messages purportedly sent on Sept. 11, 2001, from "Second World Trade Center tower collapses" to "I'm ok & love you.. xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox."

The group, Wikileaks, says some of the messages were sent by federal and local officials, but most appear to be from regular people, including frantic New Yorkers trying to reach loved ones in and around the World Trade Center.

Wikileaks was posting the messages for most of the day Wednesday and expected to finish early Thursday.

The messages range from "DO NOT GET ON THE PATH TRAIN...THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IS ON FIRE" to "President has been rerouted wont be returning to washington but not sure where he will go."

One says, "THIS IS MYRNA, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOU GO HOME, THE SECOND TOWER IS DOWN, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KEEP CALLING YOU AFTER EVERY EVENT. PLS JUST GO HOME."

ACROSS THE NATION

CDC: Swine flu vaccine safe; no big problems seen

ATLANTA (AP)—There's no evidence that the swine flu vaccine is causing any serious side effects, U.S. health officials said Wednesday, in their first report on the safety of the new vaccine. Since vaccinations began in early October, the government has been tracking the safety of the swine flu vaccine. By mid-November, about 22 million Americans had gotten the vaccine and there were about 3,200 reports of possible side effects, the vast majority for minor things like soreness or swelling from the shot. Health officials didn't expect to see any serious problems—the swine flu vaccine is basically the same as the regular winter flu vaccine. And there weren't any signs of trouble in the tests done in thousands to find the right dose.

Mom of teen set on fire: Son focused on recovery

MIAMI (AP)—In the days after 15-year-old Michael Brewer was set on fire by a group of teens, his mother, Valerie Brewer, sat at his hospital bedside and worried. "How are we going to get through this?" she recalls wondering. She was a switchboard operator. Her husband had been laid off as a maintenance man two months prior. The family didn't have health insurance. Never mind the anger that welled up after police said five of Michael's middle school classmates doused him with rubbing alcohol last month and set him ablaze, causing burns over 65 percent of his body. Police said the attack in a South Florida apartment complex happened a day after Michael called police when some of the other boys tried to steal his father's bike. Michael may also have owed one of the boys money for a video game.

Ex-CNN host Lou Dobbs weighs Senate run in NJ

HILLSIDE, N.J. (AP)—Former CNN host Lou Dobbs is seriously considering running for U.S. Senate in New Jersey in 2012 as a stepping stone to a possible White House bid—a congressional matchup that would pit one of illegal immigration's biggest critics against a champion for immigrant rights. Dobbs spokesman Robert Dilenschneider told The Associated Press Wednesday that Dobbs may challenge Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat, but is considering other offers he's received since his abrupt exit from CNN on Nov. 11 after 29 years on the news network. "A logical step for Lou, should he choose to go into public life, is to run for the next Senate seat in New Jersey, or to accept some kind of appointed position, nationally or in New Jersey," Dilenschneider said.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
November 18, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Westpac Freight including furniture, fixtures, trucks and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Westpac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

SAIPAN COOL WATER INC.
P.O. Box 504466 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 235-2665 (cool) • 235-0893

NOTICE OF CONCERNS

This is to inform the General Public that Saipan Cool Water & Ice. Inc. is now under new Management, that any financial liability or any other concerns that you may have with our company is giving you one month effective November 13, 2009 until December 13, 2009 to please visit our main office located at Kannat Tabla or call 235-2665 for the settlement of all concern.

Any concerns reported after the said date will not be entertained by the new Management.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding. And its been a pleasure doing business with you.

Respectfully Yours,

/s/ Kim, Kyonam
President, Saipan Cool Water & Ice Inc.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-M/VA-022

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OPERATION OF GROUNDS, LANDSCAPE, TURF GRASS, ROADWAY AND STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AT THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETERY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. RUTH A. COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS AT (670) 664-2650 AND IS DUE ON ***DECEMBER 10, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.***

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **RUTH A. COLEMAN**
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP2010-CDA-02

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2009 & 2010 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPS-021 (1-7)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TEN (10) PANASONIC TOUGHBOOKS 30 MAG™ TO INCLUDE MOUNTING HARDWARES AND ANTENNAS - CISF - SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Asia

Prime suspect in Philippine massacre surrenders

AP

Andal Ampatuan Jr., right, covers his face as his brother Zaldy Ampatuan, left, governor of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, accompanies Andal who surrendered to government troops in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao province, southern Philippines, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009.

AMPATUAN, Philippines (AP)—A scion of a powerful clan suspected in the massacre of 57 people in an election caravan in the southern Philippines turned himself in Wednesday amid mounting pressure on the government to crack down on lawlessness and warlords.

The dead from Monday's massacre include the wife, family and dozens of journalists and supporters of a gubernatorial candidate who wanted to challenge the rival Ampatuan clan, which has ruled Maguindanao province unopposed for years.

Andal Ampatuan Jr., a town mayor who allegedly stopped the convoy with dozens of police and pro-government militiamen, surrendered to presidential adviser Jesus Dureza in the provincial capital of Shariff Aguak, said military commander Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer.

He boarded a military helicopter to a nearby city, from where he will be flown to the capital, Manila, for investigation, Ferrer said.

"The family voluntarily surrendered him and they agreed that he will be investigated," he said.

Ampatuan's family denied the allegations of his involvement in the slayings.

The military deployed tanks and truckloads of troops throughout the province under a state of emergency to hunt down the attackers and prevent retaliatory violence from the victims' clan.

Police and soldiers on Wednesday found 11 more bodies at the site of the attack, bringing the death toll to 57. Six of the bodies were discovered in a large pit buried alongside three vehicles, and five were found in a mass grave a few miles (kilometers) off the main highway.

The vehicles—a sedan and two vans—were crushed by a large backhoe that ran over and buried them, investigator Jose Garcia said.

Ampatuan's surrender followed days of negotiations between his family and Dureza, apparently in a bid to prevent hostilities between the clan's followers and government forces.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said he had warned the Ampatuan family they risked a military attack unless they turned over Ampatuan Jr. by midday Thursday.

Ferrer said the area around the provincial capital was tense after troops disarmed about 350 pro-government militiamen loyal to the Ampatuans.

Mumbai commemorates anniversary of attacks

MUMBAI, India (AP)—A police parade showcasing new armored vehicles and weapons, a mournful candlelight vigil and a blood donation drive brought Mumbai residents together Thursday as they remembered the city's worst terror attack a year ago that left 166 people dead.

On Nov. 26, 2008, 10 Pakistan-based gunmen fanned out across the Indian financial capital, shooting up luxury hotels, a major train station and other sites, as police and military struggled for nearly three days to regain control. Seven men were charged in Pakistan on Wednesday with links to the assault.

About 100 beds were set up Thursday at the Chatrapati Shivaji train terminal, where 58 died and 104 were injured, for a blood donation drive organized by railway authorities and private groups.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Khmer Rouge prison chief could get 40 years

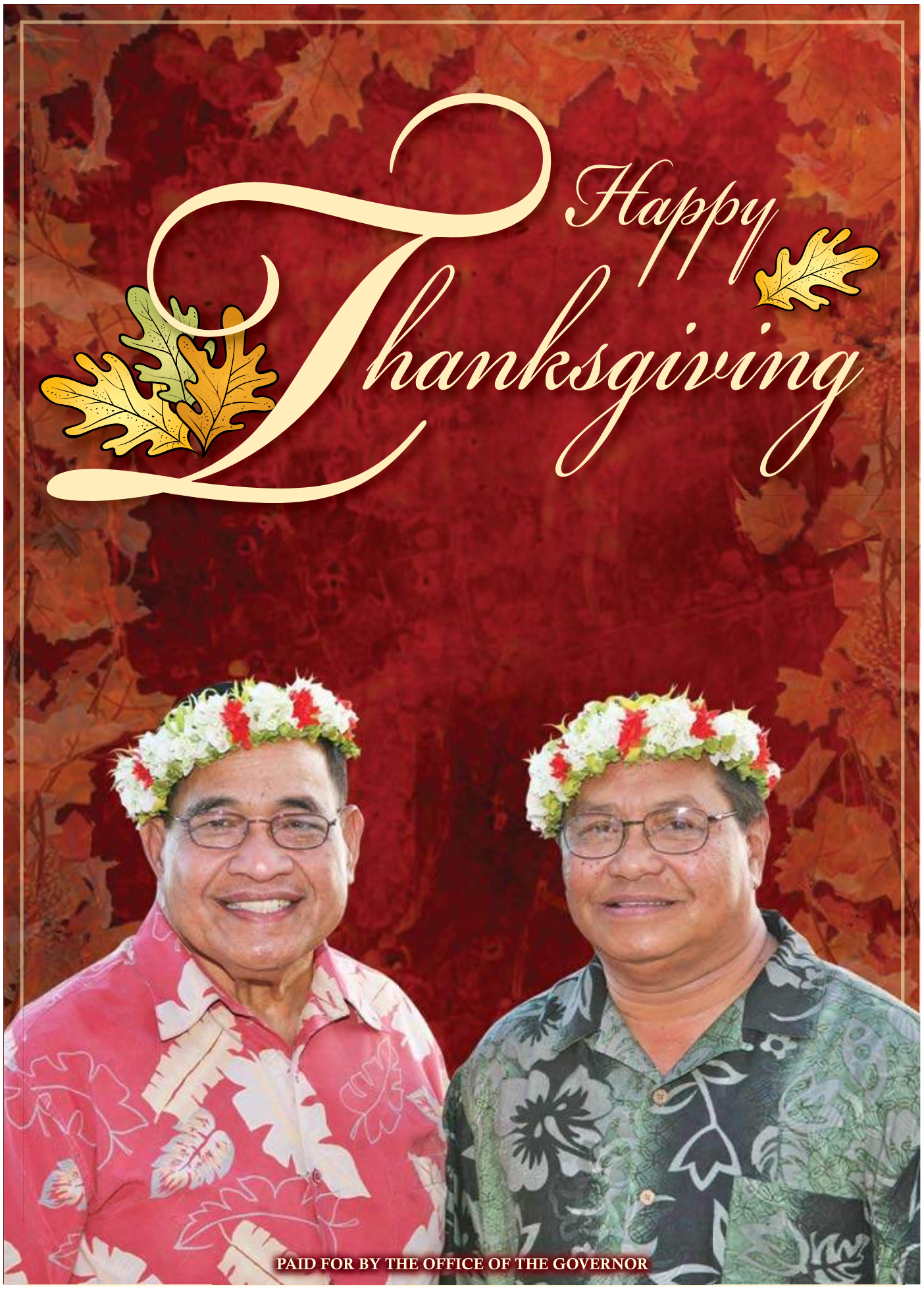
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The prison chief being tried for running a Khmer Rouge torture center apologized but said he was only following orders and couldn't stop the abuse and the thousands of killings there, as prosecutors sought a 40-year prison sentence. Defense attorneys in Cambodia's first genocide tribunal continued their closing arguments Thursday. Kaing Guek Eav, 67, is charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes, murder and torture, which carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Some survivors and other victims of the Khmer Rouge attending the U.N.-backed trial said a 40-year prison term, which would likely lock up Kaing Guek Eav for life, would not be harsh enough.

Bomb injures 3 people in northwestern Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A roadside bomb targeting a police officer exploded in the main northwestern city of Peshawar on Thursday, injuring three people in the latest of a wave of attacks to strike the area since the army launched a major anti-Taliban offensive last month. The bomb was detonated by remote control as Riaz Ulislam, the head of a police station in Peshawar, was passing by in his vehicle in a residential area of Peshawar near a school, said Hakim Khan, a police officer at the scene of the attack. The blast injured Ulislam, his driver and a child who was passing by, Khan said. The explosion badly damaged the vehicle and a nearby electrical tower, he added.

Outback Aussie town to cull invading camels

ALICE SPRINGS, Australia (AP)—State authorities plan to corral about 6,000 wild camels with helicopters and gun them down after they overran a small town in Australia's Outback in search of water, trampling fences, smashing tanks and contaminating supplies. The Northern Territory government announced its plan Wednesday for Docker River, a town of 350 residents where thirsty camels have been arriving daily for weeks. "The community of Docker River is under siege by 6,000 marauding, wild camels," local government minister Rob Knight said in Alice Springs, 310 miles (500 kilometers) northeast of Docker. "This is a very critical situation out there, it's very unusual and it needs urgent action."



World

Israel proposes 10-month West Bank settlement halt

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Wednesday proposed a 10-month halt to new construction in West Bank settlements as a step toward restarting Mideast peace negotiations. Washington welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's offer, but the Palestinians swiftly rejected it because it did not include a building freeze in Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem, the mainly Arab sector of the city they want as the capital of a future state.

The Obama administration welcomed the Israeli decision, but coolly.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton issued a statement saying the Israeli decision was a helpful move toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The administration's special envoy for Mideast peace, former Sen. George Mitchell, also welcomed the move but said it fell short of a full settlement freeze.

"But it is more than any Israeli government has done before and can help movement toward agreement between the parties," he said, adding that he planned to return to the Mideast "in the near future" to resume his efforts to win agreement from the Israelis and Palestinians to return to the negotiating table.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has demanded a total halt to settlement construction before peace talks can resume, but the Obama team has struggled in dealing with that demand.

On the one hand, the U.S. rejects the legitimacy of Israeli settlements and has harshly criticized Israel's construction in east Jerusalem, but on the other, it wants the two sides to sit down and work out their differences.

AP

An Israeli police officer stands guard next to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2009.

Netanyahu said the "far-reaching and painful step" was designed to "encourage resumption of peace talks with our Palestinian neighbors." He added: "Israel's government has made an important step toward peace today," Netanyahu said. "Let us make peace together."

The freeze applies only to new housing, meaning about 3,000 units under construction can be finished.

"We will not halt existing construction and we will continue to build synagogues, schools, kindergartens and public buildings essential for normal life" in the settlements, Netanyahu said in a statement broadcast live from his office. About 300,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said there was nothing new in Netanyahu's announcement, pointing to the 3,000 new housing units under construction in the West Bank.

"This is not a moratorium," he said. "Unfortunately, we hoped he would commit to a real settlement freeze so we can resume negotiations and he had a choice between settlements and peace and he chose settlements."

Speaking a full day before Israel officially made its proposal, Abbas adviser Nabil Abu Rdeneh said the freeze would be unacceptable if it didn't include east Jerusalem.

"Any Israeli offer that doesn't include Jerusalem will be rejected immediately," he said in a telephone interview from Argentina, where he was traveling with Abbas. "No Palestinian, no Arab can cross this line."

IAEA chief: Iran must accept nuclear proposal

VIENNA (AP)—The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency urged Iran on Wednesday to endorse a plan that would strip it of most of its enriched uranium, saying Tehran could not defuse fears about its nuclear program with proposals that included keeping the material.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei's comments were his firmest public rejection to date of Iranian attempts to modify a proposal that would involve shipping out around 70 percent of its enriched stockpile and returning it in the form of fuel rods for its Tehran research reactor.

While Iran has offered several counterproposals—buying the rods from abroad or exchanging its enriched uranium in small batches—all have in common Tehran's rejection of exporting most of its enriched uranium.

Iran now has enough enriched uranium for up to two nuclear weapons. If stripped of 70 percent of that material, its ability to make such arms would be delayed for at least a year.

Tehran insists it wants to enrich only to power an envisaged nuclear reactor network. But fears that it could instead turn to making fissile highly enriched uranium for warheads have resulted in U.N. Security Council demands that it freeze enrichment—and three sets of U.N. sanctions, shrugged off by Tehran.

"You need the material (out) from Iran to defuse the crisis and open the space for negotiations," ElBaradei told reporters. "Keeping the material in Iran will not lead to that."

His comments dovetailed with the view of six powers endorsing the plan—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany.

Those same nations planned to mount a new challenge to Tehran this week in the form of a resolution to a 35-nation IAEA board meeting criticizing it for ignoring U.N. Security Council and IAEA board demands and continuing to build its enrichment program—sometimes clandestinely.

Two diplomats who demanded anonymity because their information was confidential said that by Wednesday, the eve of the board's opening session, close to two-thirds of board members had expressed support for the resolution in private meetings.

Iran's leader makes inroads in Latin America

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sought to expand Tehran's influence in Latin America and deepen his alliance with Venezuela's Hugo Chavez on Wednesday in a visit that gave him a platform to defend his country's nuclear program.

Both leaders roundly denounced U.S. "imperialism," and Chavez also called Israel "a murderous arm of the Yankee empire."

Chavez rebuked Israeli President Shimon Peres for his recent prediction that the people of Venezuela and Iran will soon make their leaders disappear.

"What the president of Israel said, we take it as a threat," Chavez said, standing beside Ahmadinejad outside the presidential palace.

Ahmadinejad's visit triggered small protests and was condemned by Chavez opponents and Venezuela's Jewish community. Students protested outside a Caracas hotel where Ahmadinejad was thought to be staying, and another group outside the Iranian Embassy shouted, "We don't want him, go away!"

Chavez welcomed Ahmadinejad saying both countries are withstanding threats from "the same empire"—the United States. Ahmadinejad praised Chavez saying he is "withstanding the aggressions of imperialism like a mountain," and that the countries are like two soldiers in the same battle trench.

Islam's hajj: rain and fears of swine flu

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Muslim pilgrims circled Islam's holiest site Wednesday in their traditional white robes, with a few additions—umbrellas and face masks—as the opening of the annual hajj was complicated by torrential rains and fears of swine flu.

Saudi authorities have been planning ways for months to inhibit the spread of swine flu during the pilgrimage, which is seen as an incubator for the virus. The four-day event is one of the most crowded in the world, with more than 3 million people from every corner of the globe packed shoulder to shoulder in prayers and rites.

Now they are scrambling to deal with sudden, unexpected downpours that could worsen one of the gathering's perennial dangers: deadly stampedes.

In 2006, all it took was a dropped piece of luggage to trip up a crowd and cause a pileup that killed more than 360 people at one of the holy sites. The rains also could cause flash floods or mudslides in the desert mountains where most of the rites take place.

On Wednesday, the only fallout from the rains were epic traffic jams, flooded tents and washed out streets as the faithful tried to make their way to the Kaaba in Mecca. To kick off the hajj, Muslims circle seven times around the cube-shaped shrine draped in black cloth.

At times, crowds of men and women under umbrellas, some wearing surgical masks against the flu, circled in the courtyard of the mosque surrounding the shrine. But at other times during the day, the site was nearly empty, as were the surrounding streets, which would typically be jammed on the hajj's opening day.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN report: Congo rebel network spans 25 countries

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—One of Africa's most brutal rebel movements relies on a vast, international network of supporters in at least 25 countries including in the United States and Europe, a United Nations report said. The U.N. findings show that the network of people help rebels in Congo buy arms and transfer money. The findings were slated to be discussed by the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday and are a scathing indictment of how little the international community has done to cut off logistical support to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by its French acronym FDLR, an ethnic Hutu militia which has wreaked havoc in Congo. The report, which was not made public but was made available to The Associated Press, reveals that supporters in North America, Europe and Africa have become the backbone of the group's day-to-day operations, including in formulating its military strategy.

UK hostage's remains identified in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The remains of British hostage Alec Collett, who disappeared in 1985 during Lebanon's civil war while working for the United Nations, have been positively identified, the U.N. announced Monday. Experts began searching for Collett's remains last week in the eastern Bekaa Valley, which during the 1975-90 civil war was a lawless region of banditry and kidnapping. Lebanese security officials said two bodies were discovered near the village of Aita al-Foukhar and samples were sent for DNA testing in Beirut. U.N. deputy spokeswoman Marie Okabe said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had been informed of the positive identification of Collett's remains.

Man wanted in US on fraud charges denied UK bail

LONDON (AP)—A former security consultant wanted in the U.S. on charges of defrauding a client of more than $2 million was refused bail in a British court Wednesday. Kevin Halligen, 48, was arrested Tuesday after staff at a British hotel recognized him from a newspaper article that said he had gained defense and security contracts by claiming to be a former British secret agent. London's Metropolitan Police said Halligen, an Irish national, was being held on a U.S. extradition warrant.

Off The Wall

Woman leaves $40,000 at Md. shrine for safekeeping

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP)—A woman quietly left $40,000 worth of rare U.S. coins near a Catholic shrine for safekeeping so the Virgin Mary could watch over her life savings while she was out of town, and apparently it worked: The money was returned to her when she got back a week later.

Operators of the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes near Emmitsburg thought they had been blessed with a big donation when a groundskeeper found the two plastic freezer bags filled with gold and silver while raking leaves.

But Shrine Director William Tronolone said the woman approached him after a noon Mass Sunday, six days after the discovery, to ask whether anyone had found some coins she had hidden beneath fallen leaves at the site on the campus of Mount St. Mary's University.

"I said, 'Why did you leave it there?' And she said, 'Well, I had to go away and I was afraid to leave it and I wanted the Blessed Mother to watch over it for me—and evidently she did because you found it,'" Tronolone said.

By then, university officials had had the coins appraised, notified police and placed the money in a safe while awaiting word from investigators.

In this undated photo released by Mount St. Mary's University, gold and silver coins are shown from a collection worth an estimated $40,000, that was found near a Catholic shrine on the campus of Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md.

AP

Tronolone refused to identify the woman. He said she had been out of town about a week.

After the school's security director returned the coins Monday, he accompanied the woman to her bank and persuaded her to put them in her safe deposit box, Tronolone said.

The shrine, about 50 miles northwest of Baltimore, features a replica of the grotto in Lourdes, France, where Catholics believe Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to a French schoolgirl named Bernadette several times, beginning in 1858. The Emmitsburg replica draws more than 200,000 visitors annually, Tronolone said.

Grotto visitors often leave anonymous donations, including a $3,000 cash gift two weeks ago.

"Up here at the grotto, you get a lot of people that are very, very faithful," Tronolone said, "and they do things you and I would never even attempt to do."

New device takes gorilla's blood pressure

ATLANTA (AP)—One of the gorillas at Zoo Atlanta has been under pressure lately. Zoo keepers, along with undergraduate students from Georgia Tech and reseachers from Emory University, got a western lowland gorilla named Ozzie to voluntarily have his blood pressure taken by a machine students designed called the Gorilla Tough Cuff. Zoo officials say it's the first time a gorilla has ever voluntarily had its blood pressure taken in any zoo in the world.

Zoo keepers trained Ozzie for months on how to use the cuff before he did it on his own. Zoo officials say the machine can be used to detect heart problems in aging gorillas like Ozzie, who is 48 years old.

Man allegedly reports fake murder to speed police

TYLER, Texas (AP)—Police said an East Texas man has outsmarted himself in trying to get a quicker response from officers to an alleged assault. Tyler police said 38-year-old Mark Anthony Johnson called 911 on Monday night and reported that he'd just committed a homicide and was armed with a weapon.

According to a Tyler police statement, several officers sped to the northwest Tyler location with lights flashing and sirens screaming. They found Johnson, who allegedly told them the homicide was a ruse to get a quicker response to what his real beef was, a simple assault complaint.

Indeed, the Tyler police did act quickly. They arrested Johnson and charged him with filing a false report. He's in the Smith County Jail with bond set at $3,000. A jail spokeswoman said she has no record of an attorney for him.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Georgia church robber: 'Sorry but I'm poor'

ELLENWOOD, Ga. (AP)—Someone made off with loot from a Georgia church but also left behind an apology. A note scrawled on the wall said: "Sorry but I'm poor. Forgive me Lord." The Rev. Roger Davis tells WSB-TV that expensive equipment including microphones and a laptop containing important records were stolen over the weekend from Berean Baptist Church. The robber broke locks and the church's safe, but it was empty. It was the fourth time the church in Ellenwood, southeast of Atlanta, has been robbed in two years. Davis joked he's considering putting up a note of his own telling potential robbers to call him instead and the church will take up a collection for them.

Utah man makes wrong turn, sees train approaching

OGDEN, Utah (AP)—A man whose car became stuck on a set of railroad tracks bailed out before a commuter train plowed into it. Danny Ray Olsen, 62, said he took a wrong turn in Ogden and got his 1998 Nissan Sentra high-centered between two sets of rails Monday evening. He said he saw lights approaching in his rearview mirror and decided to get out. Utah Transit Authority officials estimate the northbound FrontRunner train was traveling about 55 mph as it approached. The operator hit the emergency brake but there wasn't enough room to stop. The train hit the car, pushing it more than 100 yards down the track. The train was nearly empty. No one was injured and no citations were issued.

Police: Dad leaves boy and goes into strip club

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A man was arrested after police said he left his 5-year-old son in a tractor-trailer while he ducked into an Indianapolis strip club to drink. The 39-year-old was arrested at 1:15 a.m. Tuesday on child neglect and public intoxication charges after calling police to report his truck stolen and his child missing. Police said the man was too drunk to remember where he had parked. They found the boy inside watching cartoons on a television inside the cab. The keys were in the ignition, and the doors were unlocked. Police said the suspect put his son in jeopardy by leaving him exposed in a high crime area. The man was taken to the Marion County jail, where his wife picked up him and the child.

La. police say man broke into home to cook meal

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP)—Alexandria police have arrested a man they said broke into an home to cook a meal. The Alexandria Daily Town Talk reported Wednesday that 29-year-old man, who told police he was homeless, was arrested and charged with burglary. A woman told police she walked into her home around 5:30 p.m. Sunday to find a man inside. She said she asked the man what he was doing, and he told her it was his aunt's home and that she was not to be there. The man told the woman that his aunt told him he could come by anytime he wanted. When police arrived, officers discovered that the oven and a heater were on and that the man had been cooking and eating the woman's food.

That hissing in the kitchen? Snake!!!

LAKEBAY, Wash. (AP)—Betty Corey first thought the hissing from her Lakebay, Wash., kitchen might be one of her dogs. Wrong. It was a 4-foot-long ball python. Not a fan of snakes, Corey called 911 and a Pierce County Animal Control officer removed the snake Tuesday morning. Officer Brian Boman said the agency will house the snake at its shelter, keeping it warm and close at hand if its owner is looking for it. Boman says it's likely a pet that escaped from a nearby house. He notes it needs a temperature between 80 and 85 degrees and couldn't survive long in the wild this time of year. Corey said the snake likely slithered into her home through the doggie door.

Police: Barefoot thief steals shoes for left feet

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It didn't take Knoxville police gumshoes to track down a suspected shoe thief. He was sauntering barefoot through the parking lot of a Knoxville store called the Shoe Show Wednesday morning when an employee identified him as the man who crammed shoes into his pockets and pushed her out of his way as he walked out Tuesday night. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported police arrested a 46-year-old man, charging him with theft under $500, assault and public intoxication. Officers didn't find the shoes, but they would have been a poor fit. Lt. Bob Wooldridge said the four or five shoes stolen were all contoured to fit left feet. The right foot shoes were being used in a display.

Pa. suspect's sweet tooth results in felony charge

TYRONE, Pa. (AP)—Police said a serial shoplifter from central Pennsylvania has taken three sweet steps over the line and now faces a felony charge. Sonya Mosey, 33, was jailed on a felony retail theft charge for allegedly stealing three snack cakes worth $4.27 from a convenience store on Oct. 27. Police said she took a Hostess doughnut and two Tastykake items from the store, though she did pay for a soda pop. Mosey has been charged with a felony because she has four prior retail theft convictions. She's also awaiting trials on a separate felony retail theft case, a drug charge, and public drunkenness. Mosey was jailed on the newest charge Monday and faces a preliminary hearing next Tuesday. Online court records don't list an attorney for her.

Police seek bald man who swiped family's turkey

JACKSON, Mich. (AP)—Jackson police are working to crack a case of fowl play. They're searching for a man who broke into an apartment about 11 p.m. Tuesday and stole a family's holiday turkey. Police Lt. Christopher Simpson told the Jackson Citizen Patriot the suspect ran into the kitchen and stole the turkey out of the freezer. He said the 6-foot, 300-pound bald man "fled with turkey in hand." Police said a woman and two children were home at the time, and no one was injured. The woman told authorities she knew the man.

Science & Technology

'Call of Duty' setting entertainment records

NEW YORK (AP)—The video game "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" is blasting its way into entertainment history.

After hauling in the biggest-ever first-day sales total last week, the game continues break records.

Activision Blizzard Inc., which released the game Nov. 10, said the latest game in its "Call of Duty" franchise made $550 million in worldwide sales during its first five days. That would put it over the $500 million record set last year by "Grand Theft Auto IV," from Take-Two Interactive Software Inc.

Activision didn't say how many units it has shipped. But Lazard Capital Markets analyst Colin Sebastian estimates the company sold between 8.5 million and 9 million copies.

The game is also blowing past records set by other media. After "Grand Theft Auto IV" comes $394 million in worldwide box office sales brought in by the movie "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" over its first five days, according to Activision.

In its first 24 hours on sale, "Call of Duty" made $310 million in North America and the United Kingdom alone, while "Grand Theft Auto" made that same amount worldwide.

It was also far above the record $155 million opening weekend for the Batman movie "The Dark Knight" last year.

AP

In this file video game image released by Activision, a scene from "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" is shown.

The game, which sells for $60, runs on Windows-based computers, Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3.

Shares in Activision, which is based in Santa Monica, Calif., gained 3 cents to $11.72 in afternoon trading.

The weak economy has hit video game companies later than many other sectors because the industry had been thought by some investors to be recession-proof. Shares of both Activision and rival Electronic Arts Inc. have underperformed the S&P 500 since March. Take-Two's shares, meanwhile, have been volatile—but they are trading roughly at the same level as they were a year ago.

Google apologizes for offensive first lady image

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. is apologizing for a racially offensive image of the first lady that appears at the top of the list when users search for pictures of Michelle Obama on its site.

Google placed a text ad above the image titled "Offensive Search Results" that states "Sometimes our search results can be offensive. We agree."

Users who then click on the ad are directed to a letter from Google that explains its results "can include disturbing content, even from innocuous queries" but notes that Google doesn't endorse content on these Web sites.

Google says its search formula relies on thousands of factors to rank a Web page's importance, and says it doesn't eliminate search results simply because of user complaints. However, Google says it will take down images in certain cases, such as when required by law to do so.

"We apologize if you've had an upsetting experience using Google," the company wrote.

Mountain View, Calif.-based Google also posted about the issue in a user support forum.

Spokesman Scott Rubin would not elaborate on how the image ended up as the number-one result for the first lady.

The Google letter says "a site's ranking in Google's search results relies heavily on computer algorithms using thousands of factors to calculate a page's relevance to a given query."

Rubin said the company did remove one site displaying the image from its results because it included viruses, which Google policy prohibits. But a different Web site later posted the same image, he said.

The White House declined to comment.

This is not the first time Google has apologized for content in its search results. The company issued a similar response in 2004 when the top result for the term "Jew" pointed to an anti-Semitic Web site.

IBM takes a (feline) step toward thinking machines

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Scientists say they've made a breakthrough in their pursuit of computers that "think" like a living thing's brain—an effort that tests the limits of technology.

Even the world's most powerful supercomputers can't replicate basic aspects of the human mind. The machines can't imagine a wall painted a different color, for instance, or picture a person's face and connect that to an emotion.

If researchers can make computers operate more like a brain thinks—by reasoning and dealing with abstractions, among other things—they could unleash tremendous insights in such diverse fields as medicine and economics.

A computer with the power of a human brain is not yet near. But this week researchers from IBM Corp. are reporting that they've simulated a cat's cerebral cortex, the thinking part of the brain, using a massive supercomputer. The computer has 147,456 processors (most modern PCs have just one or two processors) and 144 terabytes of main memory—100,000 times as much as your computer has.

The scientists had previously simulated 40 percent of a mouse's brain in 2006, a rat's full brain in 2007, and 1 percent of a human's cerebral cortex this year, using progressively bigger supercomputers.

The latest feat, being presented at a supercomputing conference in Portland, Ore., doesn't mean the computer thinks like a cat, or that it is the progenitor of a race of robo-cats.

The simulation, which runs 100 times slower than an actual cat's brain, is more about watching how thoughts are formed in the brain and how the roughly 1 billion neurons and 10 trillion synapses in a cat's brain work together.

The researchers created a program that told the supercomputer, which is in the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, to behave how a brain is believed to behave. The computer was shown images of corporate logos, including IBM's, and scientists watched as different parts of the simulated brain worked together to figure out what the image was.

Dharmendra Modha, manager of cognitive computing for IBM Research and senior author of the paper, called it a "truly unprecedented scale of simulation." Researchers at Stanford University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory were also part of the project.

Modha says the research could lead to computers that rely less on "structured" data, such the input 2 plus 2 equals 4, and can handle ambiguity better, like identifying the corporate logo even if the image is blurry. Or such computers could incorporate senses like sight, touch and hearing into the decisions they make.

One reason that development would be significant to IBM: The company is selling "smarter planet" services that use digital sensors to monitor things like weather and traffic and feed that data into computers that are asked to do something with the information, like predicting a tsunami or detecting freeway accidents. Other companies could use "cognitive computing" to make better sense of large volumes of information.

Nintendo's Mario endures even as games come and go

NEW YORK (AP)—You might call him the Mickey Mouse of video games. He's reminiscent of a doughnut, round and sweet and comforting. He's also a vessel, devoid of a real personality so you can live vicariously through him.

Mario, the pot-bellied Italian plumber with a penchant for rescuing princesses, collecting golden coins and gobbling magic mushrooms, has been around for nearly three decades. And even though he hasn't changed much, the latest game he stars in, the newly released "The New Super Mario Bros. Wii" ($50), is one of the holiday season's top titles.

Created by Japanese game designer Shigeru Miyamoto, Mario is a recognizable character even to people who don't play video games. He pops up in Halloween costumes—blue overalls, red hat, gut and all—as does his brother Luigi. Mario has been in cartoons and movies (though some were best forgotten), and he graces oodles of official and unofficial Mario merchandise.

"I like him. I like him a lot. He has a cool mustache," says Colin Gaul, 9, from Portland, Ore. "He is awesome because he is brave and he's been on a lot of adventures. And his favorite color is red and mine is too."

AP

In this Feb. 6, 1997 file photo, Shigeru Miyamoto, creator of Super Mario video game series, demonstrates Super Mario 64 in his office at the Nintendo Co. headquarters in Kyoto, Japan.

Colin first played a Mario game when he was 5, on Nintendo Co.'s handheld Game Boy system. On the Wii, Colin has played "Super Paper Mario" and "Super Smash Bros. Brawl," which features a cavalcade of Nintendo characters duking it out.

But Colin wasn't even born when Super Mario emerged.

First called Jumpman, the character debuted in 1981 in the arcade game "Donkey Kong," in which Jumpman had to save a damsel from a big ape. His first job was carpentry, but later he became a plumber, and in many games he travels up and down in a world of underground pipes.

In the mid-1980s, Nintendo and Mario helped save the U.S. video game industry, which was on the verge of imploding after early popularity. Terrible games—most infamously "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial"—had flooded the market, and "people didn't realize that video games were a burgeoning industry," says Scott Steinberg, lead video game analyst at Digitaltrends.com. "They thought it was a fad."

It wasn't. With the launch of the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1985, which in the U.S. came bundled with "Super Mario Bros.," video games became a household phenomenon. Nintendo sold 60 million of the consoles, often called the NES.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: Will a monitor with 1900-by-1200 resolution work for playing Blu-ray movies, or should I get a 1080p display?

A: The first set of dimensions are slightly narrower than a Blu-ray disc's 1920-by-1080-pixel resolution, but widely available 1920-by-1080 displays should do fine (though they will leave some space above and below movies when you watch in full-screen mode).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I am thinking of replacing my four-year-old Garmin GPS unit with a newer Garmin that includes free lifetime traffic data and MSN Direct. Would that ease my holiday drives?

A: Garmin's traffic-advisory service, available on many higher-end models, can certainly help. But steer clear of assigning too much value to MSN Direct. Microsoft announced last month that this service, which delivers updates on traffic, weather, gas prices, movie times and other information on a special FM radio signal for $50 a year, will end on Jan. 1, 2012.

Unfortunately, as of Nov. 20—three weeks after Microsoft's announcement—Garmin's Web site had yet to offer much warning about the change. Its MSN Direct page continued to tout the virtues of this service, and some listings for MSN Direct-compatible receivers made no mention of its scheduled demise while others included just a brief disclaimer at the bottom of each page. A spokeswoman for the Olathe, Kan., firm said it would make those notices more prominent over this weekend.

That doesn't mean that you couldn't get value out of MSN Direct between now and 2012, should your travels fall within its coverage area. But if you keep your next GPS unit for as long as your current one, you'll spend two more years with hardware that no longer functions as advertised.

Rob Pegoraro attempts to untangle computing conundrums and errant electronics each week.

Life & Style

Taylor Lautner is the other man in 'Moon'

By GINA MCINTYRE
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

It must be terrifying to know that fame, like a giant, all-consuming tidal wave, is about to break over you at any moment. But if Taylor Lautner's scared, he's not showing it. In fact, the 17-year-old star of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," which opens in theaters at midnight Thursday, seems a little too calm. When talking about his starring role as Jacob Black in the follow-up to last year's box-office breakout "Twilight," he exudes an effortless boy-next-door charm. His demeanor, although somewhat guarded, is more small-town high school football star than newly minted teen heartthrob.

It's a little eerie, really.

Maybe that sense of calm is because the frenzy around Lautner's rising star has only just begun, or perhaps he's well suited to life at the center of the pop-culture maelstrom sparked by Stephenie Meyer's best-selling young adult novels about high school student Bella Swan and the two supernatural suitors vying for her affections.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Actor Taylor Lautner, 17, is one of the stars in the new "Twilight" film, "New Moon."

Jacob, unfortunately, is the underdog in that particular battle, although "New Moon" centers largely on his relationship with Bella (Kristen Stewart). Heartbroken after the abrupt departure of her brooding vampire beau, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), she finds solace in Jacob, but he has problems of his own—namely, a massive crush on Bella and a just-discovered genetic mutation that causes him to turn into a werewolf with little provocation. No full moon required.

"When I was reading the books, I felt so bad for Jacob's character," Lautner said earlier this year on the set of the film in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"I was, like, 'Wow, he can't get the girl he wants, and he's being shut down and used.' But now that I'm actually filming it and living this character, I feel so much worse."

Lautner had to actively lobby to ensure that he would be the one to feel so bad. Although he appeared in "Twilight," Jacob has a much smaller part in that story. He not only moves to the forefront of the narrative in Meyer's "New Moon," but the character also morphs from an average teen to an imposing 16-year-old standing roughly 6 feet, 5 inches. Lautner didn't experience the same sort of growth spurt, leading to talk of recasting the role for the movie.

But the actor fought to convince the producers and director Chris Weitz that, although he might not be able to will himself to be taller, he could still appear physically imposing. He worked out for roughly 90 minutes every day for nearly a year, ultimately gaining about 30 pounds of lean muscle. In the film, he looks as if he might be able to take down a young Bruce Lee without much effort.

"He's ripped," said producer Wyck Godfrey, "like Marky Mark in 1991."

"It was always the right call to keep him—from a character standpoint—because people connected to Taylor as Jacob in the first movie," Godfrey added. "The only thing that ever stood in our way was the physical description of Jacob in the second and third book. But Taylor when we were making 'Twilight' wasn't the same Taylor that showed up when we were ready to start making 'New Moon.'"

Almost any up-and-coming actor would go to great lengths to protect a coveted lead role in a major movie franchise, but Lautner's determination to continue on as Jacob might have grown out of a sense of obligation to his family rather than just a desire to further his career.

As a child, he enjoyed football and martial arts and would often travel around the country to attend various competitions. At an event in Louisville, Ky., he met up with a Los Angeles-based karate instructor who believed Lautner had the chops to pursue acting. After some deliberation, Lautner's parents moved with Taylor and his younger sister from their home in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Southern California for one month to see if he could break into the business. Taylor got his first callback near the end of that trial period, and they decided to make the relocation permanent.

"My parents said to me, 'Look, if you want to continue doing this, we can't do it from Michigan—we have to live in L.A.,'" Lautner said by phone last week. "I think it was when I was, like, 10 years old. It was a really difficult decision for me, and obviously an extremely difficult and risky decision for my parents but, luckily, I have a very supportive family behind me. Thank goodness it worked."

He made his first feature, 2005's "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl 3-D," with director Robert Rodriguez, and also appeared in that year's "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," in addition to some television work before "Twilight." He met with the approval of members of "Team Jacob," the faction of Meyer's fans who believe that Bella belongs with her good friend, not Edward.

That lobby is likely to be very excited about Lautner's work in "New Moon"—given that throughout a considerable percentage of the movie he's dressed in little more than denim cutoffs. (Werewolves have higher than average body temperatures and their propensity to burst out of their garments when they shift into animal form makes it more convenient to wear less.)

"The werewolves in this movie are really creatures of rage and quick anger, and that's not him," Weitz said of his young star, whom he describes as "a sunny guy." "What you see on the screen when he's very upset is acting—and good acting at that. He's got extraordinary potential."

He'll have an opportunity to explore some of that potential with his role in director Garry Marshall's Los Angeles-set romantic comedy "Valentine's Day," due out in February, and then in "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," the third installment in the franchise, which is set for release in June.

By that time, some of his newfound celebrity surely will have caught up to him. Following the release of "Twilight," Stewart and Pattinson became favorite targets of the tabloid media and paparazzi; whether Lautner, who reportedly began dating country crossover superstar Taylor Swift—a "Valentine's" co-star—will receive the same sort of undesired attention remains to be seen.

But he already understands that the "Twi-hards," as Meyer's devotees are called, can be rather, well, enthusiastic in their reactions to the film's stars.

"I don't think I've become accustomed to it," he said about the deafening screams that have met him and his cast mates at various public appearances, including Monday's "New Moon" premiere in Los Angeles.

"It's more that we know to expect anything—but we continue to find ourselves surprised over and over again."

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Monday & Tuesday 4:25 7:15
John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Two best friends—one unlucky-in-love divorcee and the other a fun-loving bachelor—have their lives turned upside down when they're unexpectedly charged with the care of 7-year-old twins while on the verge of the biggest business deal of their lives. The not-so-kid-savvy bachelors stumble in their efforts to take care of the twins, leading to one debacle after another, and perhaps to a new-found understanding of what's really important in life.

Ninja Assassin
Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:10
Monday & Tuesday 4:30 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Raizo is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. But haunted by the merciless execution of his friend by the Clan, Raizo breaks free from them...and vanishes. Now he waits, preparing to exact his revenge. In Berlin, Europol agent Mika Coretti has stumbled upon a money trail linking several political murders to an underground network of untraceable assassins from the Far East.

Paranormal Activity
Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Monday & Tuesday 4:10 7:30
Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
After a young, middle class couple moves into what seems like a typical suburban "starter" tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be demonic, but is certainly most active in the middle of the night. Especially when they sleep. Or try to.

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday & Tuesday 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

2012
Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday & Tuesday 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51
Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Monday & Tuesday 4:20 7:20
Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Monday & Tuesday 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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19.2 million people watch Donny Osmond win

NEW YORK (AP)—Donny Osmond was declared the new champion of "Dancing With Stars" on Tuesday night, taking home the show's mirror ball trophy in the season finale of the ABC contest reality program.

Osmond, the former teen pop star of the singing Osmond family, said the show has been a highlight in a career of ups and downs.

"I did it!" Osmond exclaimed. He promptly rushed to the audience and plucked out his wife, Debbie, whom he carried across the stage.

Helping push Osmond over the top was the tango he performed Tuesday with his professional dancing partner, Kym Johnson. Judge Carrie Ann Inaba hailed it as "artistry in motion." It earned the top score of the final performances.

Three celebrities made it to the finale of the show's ninth season—Osmond, Mya and Kelly Osbourne, the daughter of Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. The show picks a winner with a combination of judges' scores and viewer votes.

Mya entered as the favorite, having won the highest scores on Monday's show. Dancing with Dmitry Chaplin, she performed a jive.

"I'm just so happy to have made it to the finals," Mya said after the loss.

The 30-year-old singer is most famous for collaborating on the Grammy-winning hit "Lady Marmalade" from the soundtrack of 2001's "Moulin Rouge!"

Osbourne was the first of the three eliminated.

With her famous family—Ozzy, Sharon and Jack—looking on, Osbourne and professional partner Louis Van Amstel danced to a cover of Ray LaMontagne's "Trouble." The 25-year-old was clearly moved and began crying after her last dance.

She thanked the audience and said she had "grown so much" during the show. Co-host Samantha Harris said Osbourne had become "a swan."

The finale culminated a season of good ratings for "Dancing With the Stars," which consistently ranked as one of the most-watched shows of the fall.

The contestant who grabbed the most headlines, former Congressman Tom DeLay, had to withdraw in the third week of competition because of stress fractures in both feet. A healed DeLay returned Tuesday night to dance the Texas two-step routine he had hoped to perform.

All former contestants returned, including former Dallas Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin, who performed a dance-off to the theme of "Monday Night Football" with another NFL receiving great, Jerry Rice, who was a contestant on the second season of "Dancing With the Stars." The judges declared Rice the winner.

Pop singer Aaron Carter, voted off this season, performed a dance to the theme of "The Muppet Show." Animal took the drums, while Miss Piggy lurked backstage.

Mistakes on the dance floor weren't the only missteps of ABC's live broadcast. At the top of the show, as highlights from Monday's show ran, the video froze on shot of Miss Piggy, prompting host Tom Bergeron to remind viewers that the broadcast was live and send the show to an early commercial break.

Whitney Houston also made a guest appearance to perform her "Million Dollar Bill" and the fitting "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

Gymnast Shawn Johnson won last season's "Dancing With the Stars."

ABC can expect high ratings for Tuesday's finale. Last week's results show attracted an audience of 16.2 million.

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Donny Osmond, left, and his partner Kym Johnson hold their trophies after they were crowned champions of "Dancing with the Stars," on the Season Finale, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009 in Los Angeles.

Donny Osmond's 'Stars' partner goes to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Donny Osmond may have been the celebrity winner on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," but his professional dancing partner already has her next gig lined up - Broadway.

Kym Johnson will make her Broadway debut Friday in "Burn the Floor," the hot-blooded ballroom dance show at the Longacre Theatre, producer Harley Medcalf announced Wednesday. She will be partnered with Maksim Chmerkovskiy, another alum of "Stars." He opened "Burn the Floor" on Broadway in August.

Johnson and Chmerkovskiy will be on Broadway through Jan. 10. She did the original workshop of "Burn the Floor" in London in 1998 and later toured around the world with the production.

On Jan. 12, Mary Murphy of FOX's "So You Think You Can Dance" and Alec Mazo and Edyta Sliwinska, also from "Dancing With the Stars," join "Burn the Floor."

And the producers have also extended the show's Broadway engagement. It will now end Feb. 14.

Polanski wins $4.5M bail, house arrest likely

GENEVA (AP)—Roman Polanski was granted $4.5 million bail Wednesday, clearing the way for the fugitive director to move within days from a Swiss jail to house arrest and electronic monitoring at his Alpine resort chalet.

Polanski

The Swiss Justice Minister said she saw no reason to appeal the surprise decision by the Swiss Criminal Court. Polanski would have to remain in Switzerland as authorities assess whether to extradite him to the United States for having sex in Los Angeles in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Ministry Spokesman Folco Galli said the final decision on transferring Polanski to his chalet in the Swiss resort of Gstaad would be made "quickly."

"The 76-year-old appellant is married and the father of two minors," the court said as it considered Polanski's offer of a cash bail secured by his apartment in Paris. "It can be assumed that as a responsible father he will, especially in view of his advanced age, attach greater importance to the financial security of his family than a younger person."

The court said Polanski would be subjected to "constant electronic surveillance" at his chalet and an alarm would be activated if he leaves the premises or takes off the bracelet, adding that the filmmaker was still viewed as a high flight risk.

Polanski's lawyers Lorenz Erni in Zurich, Herve Temime in Paris and Chad Hummel in Los Angeles declined to comment. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office also had no reaction, spokeswoman Shiara Davila-Morales said.

The decision came as a surprise after a series of setbacks for the director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown," and "The Pianist."

The Swiss Justice Ministry ordered Polanski arrested Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

Swiss legal experts had said earlier that Polanski's chances of bail were slim, and even U.S. authorities expressed confidence that a Swiss court wouldn't grant his release.

Vicki Kennedy describes husband's cancer battle

CHICAGO (AP)—The widow of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy told Oprah Winfrey in an interview broadcast Wednesday that even as her husband knew he was dying of brain cancer he had been "in training" to make sure he had enough strength to attend President Barack Obama's inauguration.

In the most extensive interview since her husband's death in August, Vicki Kennedy said she wouldn't try to run for her husband's former U.S. Senate seat and described how he battled brain cancer—but she would not talk about the last thing he said to her before dying.

"I think I'll just keep that one to myself," she told Winfrey on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

During the hour-long interview was taped Friday, Kennedy was sometimes joined on stage by her two grown children as well as Ted Kennedy Jr. She described her husband's seizure in May 2008, which led to his diagnosis of the brain cancer that ended his life at the age of 77.

"We went from thinking he had lost his life, to thinking that he'd had a stroke, to thinking that he wouldn't speak to thinking that he was OK, to then finding out that he might have a brain tumor all in the span of about three hours," she said.

She also told Winfrey about how her husband kept working on his book after his diagnosis and even was calling colleagues in the Senate to talk about strategy to push through legislation as he was traveling to Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. to undergo brain surgery.

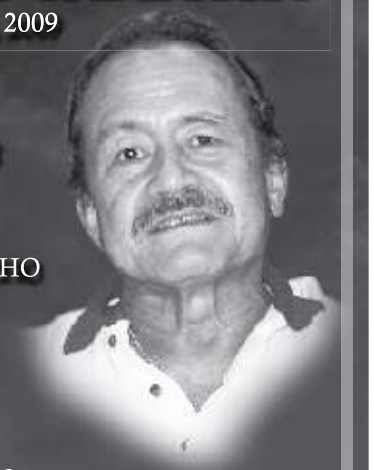
"It was an inspiration, really, to watch how Teddy grappled with such a grave diagnosis and always looked forward with hope," she said.

After watching a clip of her husband's speech at the Democratic National Convention, Kennedy said her husband, despite being told initially that he had just a few months to live, was determined to survive long enough to see Obama sworn in as president.

In Celebration of His New Life

NORBERT BENAVENTE CAMACHO

July 01, 1953 — November 22, 2009



In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: TRINIDAD ARRIOLA BENAVENTE
Father: FELIX TUDELA CAMACHO
Daughters: NADIA IGLECIAS
ESTHER LAO CAMACHO
Sister: FRANCISCA BENAVENTE CAMACHO
Nephew: PAUL LEE CAMACHO

His is survived by his:

Wife: LISA LAO CAMACHO
Children: Michael, Julie & Jason Lao Camacho
Nadia & Dolores Dl. Guerrero Camacho
Norbert & Ronalyn Iglecias (Norissa, Kyle, Ashley & Tiffany),
Norma I. Camacho (Nolan, Napualani & Nathan),
Norman I. & Fedora Camacho (Reef Jordan)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Luis B. & Antonette C. Camacho and Family
Rita C. & Ben Cruz and Family
Margarita B. Camacho & Joseph Zilliox
†Francisca B. Camacho (†Paul Lee & Adrienne)
Wilhelmina C. & Michael Jensen
Bernita C. & Alexander M. Ito and Family

Mass and the Holy Rosary are being offered daily at 6pm at St. Jude Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 10:00 am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Viewing will take place on Monday, November 30, 2009 from 7:30 am to 9:30 am at the Borja Funeral Home ONLY. Interment services will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetary.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Lisa L. Camacho and Family

Sting offers a 'spooky, ghostly' seasonal album

NEW YORK (AP)—Sting and his wife Trudie keep with tradition on Christmas Eve: They go to a local church, sing along to carols, then head back home to their English estate to open presents with their family.

It's a cheery scene one would expect during the holiday season. But that kind of celebratory mood is absent on his latest album, "If On A Winter's Night."

Instead, the seasonal offering features the rocker's interpretations of traditional British songs, ranging from carols to lullabies, that somberly mark the winter season—definitely not the kind of music for that tree-trimming party.

"I wanted to present something slightly different," explains a bearded Sting, talking about the album while sitting in his Upper West Side apartment.

"There's a fault with a lot of Christmas songs; they are a little bit triumphal: 'Isn't life wonderful, God's in his heaven and I'm rich,'" laughs Sting. "They sort of forget a lot of people aren't."

"If On A Winter's Night," which Sting will present in a "Great Performances" concert on PBS on Thanksgiving, doesn't forget. In a recent interview, Sting explained why he felt compelled to make the CD, being middle age and why he's not giving up on his rock roots.

The Associated Press: Had you rejected doing a traditional Christmas album in the past?

Sting: I don't think there's any need for me to do one of those kind of records. I think there are enough of them out there and my feeling toward the season is a little bit more ambiguous (laughs). So just to be truthful to my own sensibility, I need to acknowledge that the season is not all joy and light for a lot of people. It's tough—environmentally, emotionally, spiritually. So I wanted to achieve some sort of balance between that sense of traditional Christmas and being home and being warm and being cozy, and also the opposite of those things. A lot of people suffer.

AP: When the leaves start to fall and the snow comes, what do you start to think about?

Sting: At this particular time, preparing for the winter of one's life. I'm 58. I'm not in the winter of my life but I'm definitely preparing for it, so it reminds you of your mortality, the short span of years we have on the planet, what to do with that, how to be useful, how to be meaningful.

AP: How does one prepare for that?

Sting: I don't know yet (laughs). I think this kind of work for me, this kind of creative work, is my preparation. This is my realm. I did a lot of research for this record. I looked at songs from all different cultures and time periods and genre, anything that mentions snow, ice cold wind or Christmas, and arrived at like 15 or 16 songs that encapsulated my feeling about it. All of the songs are kind of magical. All the stories have a kind of spooky, ghostly quality about them because I think winter's the seasons of ghosts... I like the season, I like it, I look forward to it, but at the same time, it has a scary aspect to it.

AP: Some of these songs are centuries old. Did you consider doing new songs?

Sting: That would have been nice but at the moment in my career, I seem to be interpreting material rather than writing it. I haven't stopped writing. It just seems your career goes through cycles where sometimes you're there to learn. I'm learning to interpret other people's work and immerse yourself in other people's work. It's a good thing to do.

AP: There are always people who want to hear the "pop" Sting. What do you say to that?

AP

In this Oct. 28, 2009 file photo, recording artist Sting is photographed in New York.

Sting: I mix it up all the time. I did a rock gig last week with my band in Asia. I'm constantly doing different stuff, and of course I go back to rock 'n' roll, but I would have learned something from another area and bring something back. I'm not one of these guys who can stay in the same rut. I constantly want to find out new things. I'm curious.

AP: A lot of artists prefer to stick to what's been successful.

Sting: I'm not saying they're wrong. I mean, sometimes you can be rewarded for doing that commercially, at least. It's just not me (laughs). I tend to have made my decisions against that kind of logic. In other words, what I would find safe and logical was the opposite to what I felt I should do. Stay in a successful band like The Police? Yeah, you would think, well, that's what you do. They're the biggest band in the world, right, so you just stick with it. My instincts said, no, go the other way, and see what happens. Keep making pop records on my own? No. Try doing 16th century art songs and see what happens. I think you're always rewarded by taking a risk.

AP: Do you still feel the push to create that big hit that lives in the public consciousness?

Sting: That's a nice feeling to have that, when people are whistling your song in the street, or you're walking past the shop and you hear it blaring or a car goes by. Oh, that's a great feeling, to have a hit record. It's fantastic. You can't have that all your life (laughs). There's a time when your interests are more esoteric. A little bit more refined, so the popular taste maybe bypasses what you do. My career has largely bypassed popular tastes... I enjoyed having hit records but at the same time, I don't mind not having hit records, as long as I'm making music.

In Loving Memory of our beloved

Elena "Irene" Takai Camacho

Born on May 20, 1958 and called to eternal rest on November 22, 2009.

Predeceased by:

Father: †Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Brother: †Lawrence T. Camacho
Grandparents: †Juan Campos/ †Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho and †Jose Duenas/ †Ana Lujan Takai
Uncles and Aunties: †Jose Deleon Guerrero Camacho, †Rosalia C. Flores, †Lorenzo T. Flores †Magdalena C. Benavente, †Jose L. Takai, and †Bobby Danford

Survived by:

Mother: Rita Takai Camacho
Daughter: Soledad Ana Camacho (Iyana)
Brothers/Sisters and In Laws:
Maria C. Arizala (Jerlisa, Jessica (Clarisa), Christopher)
Joanne T. Camacho (Sydney (Leoney and Cody), Steven/Caroline (Javin), Jaclyn, Nathan)
John T. Camacho &Stephanie Aulerio (Regina, (Jogina) Keoni, Zoranelle)
Joseph T. Camacho & Rose Gibbons (Jocelyn, Lawrence, Ria)
† Lawrence T. Camacho (Leonardo, Leisha)
William T. Camacho &Valerie S. Camacho (Kaliko, Shanice, Jesse)
Rodney T. Camacho & Carmen C. Camacho (Ronnie Cherise)
Uncles and Aunties:
Marcelino Dlg. & Cecilia T. Camacho, Francisco Dlg. & Victoria B. Camacho, Margarita C. Sablan
Carlos L. & Trinidad T. Takai, Fina Takai, Oscar L. & Sinforosa C. Takai, Salvador L. & Remedio A. Takai, Eleuterio L. & Magdalena L. Takai, Juan L. & Rosie F. Takai, Ramon L.& Juanita I. Takai, Dolores T. & Gregorio Arriola, Mathilde L. Takai, Pablo L. Takai, Dorothea T. Danford

Morning Mass is being offered at 6am at Kristo Rai Church.

On Monday, November 30th, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7am. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00am followed by innterment to Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Maase. Thank you for your prayers.

Ginen I Familia / From the Family

Struggling mom suspects it's time to let man go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing a guy, "Casey," for three years. I have two children by another man, and Casey took them on as if they were his. They even call him "Daddy." I'm grateful I have someone who takes such good care of my kids. I can see myself spending the rest of my life with him.

There's just one problem. Casey has a hard time keeping a job. He has had more than a dozen jobs during the last three years. The only income we have is mine, and it's not very much. We struggle quite a bit, and we fight about money. Things would be better if Casey would get a job and keep it, but I can't get him to understand that. Sometimes I feel like he's using me.

I want to stay with Casey, but now and then I also think I'd be better off if I left him. What can I do to make him understand that he needs to keep a job? Or, because I love him, should I stand beside him no matter what?

BREADWINNER IN OHIO

DEAR BREADWINNER: If Casey doesn't understand after three years that you need an equal partner in the relationship, I doubt you'll ever get that message through to him. As it stands, you appear to have a live-in baby sitter "with benefits." Add to that the fact that on some level you sense you are being used and would be better off without him, and I conclude that day care would not only be less expensive, it would also provide you a chance to meet a man who's willing to pull his own weight. Right now it appears you have three dependents.

• • • •

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I both work two jobs, and we have raised three wonderful children. Over the years we have watched our friends build bigger and bigger homes, drive fancy cars and take extended trips to exotic locations while my husband and I work paycheck to paycheck.

What bothers me is that many of my girlfriends were "gold diggers" who stole wealthy men from other women, and some of the men seem to make money by doing illegal things. They're all living high on the hog while I dodge bill collectors.

I thought I was making good decisions and being morally responsible, but apparently the "nice guy/nice gal comes in last." When do these people get what's coming to them, and when do I get a break?

NICE GAL IN OHIO

DEAR NICE GAL: How about starting right now? Start by shedding those people from your life whom you find morally reprehensible and look for some whose values more closely resemble your own. And instead of obsessing about others "getting what's coming to them," concentrate on improving your own life.

If you're dodging bill collectors, find a credit counseling agency to help you deal with them. It won't happen overnight, but things will improve as you get your financial life in order. Find a credit counseling agency that is approved by your Better Business Bureau or affiliated with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling or the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Lambert says he got carried away, but not sorry

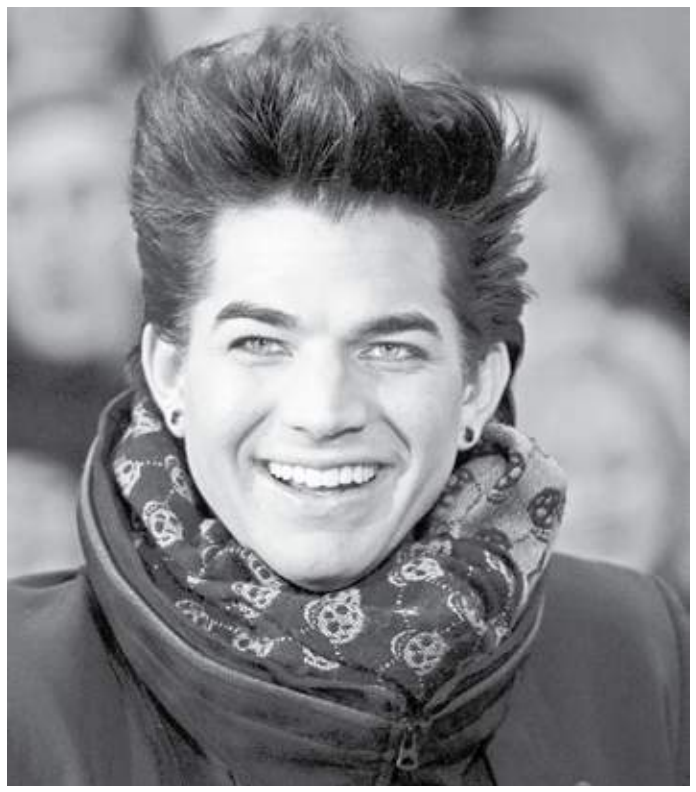
NEW YORK (AP)—Adam Lambert admits he got carried away with his sexually charged American Music Awards performance, but he's offering no apology.

The glam rocker from "American Idol" said on "The Early Show" that his performance would not have caused as much controversy if he weren't openly gay. He also said there were other "adult" moments on the show that caused no outrage.

"I admit I did get carried away, but I don't see anything wrong with it," he said Wednesday. "I do see how people got offended and that was not my intention. My intention was to interpret the lyrics of my song and have a good time with it."

Lambert kissed a male keyboard player, dragged a female dancer around by the ankles and had a dancer simulate oral sex on him while performing "For Your Entertainment," a song with a sexual edge. ABC received many complaints about the performance and that network's morning show, "Good Morning America," canceled Lambert's scheduled appearance on Wednesday because it said it couldn't trust what he would do.

"The Early Show" on CBS, perennially third in a three-network morning show race, happily gave him a platform and milked it—interviewing him, having him interact with fans and asking him to sing. One of the show's hosts, Harry Smith, tied the flap to rock history, noting that camera operators were only allowed to shoot Elvis Presley from the waist up during a network TV appearance generations ago.



AP

Singer Adam Lambert appears on CBS's' "The Early Show" in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009.

Lambert admitted he didn't rehearse some of the more risque elements of his award show performance—a point that particularly upset ABC, which said it was taken by surprise by what he did. In the future, he said he'd try to get these issues cleared before the show.

But he noted that Lady Gaga smashed whiskey bottles during her performance, Eminem rapped about rape and Janet Jackson briefly groped a male dancer.

"Janet Jackson, crotch grab," he said. "I haven't heard one peep about that."

He said that "if it had been a female pop performer doing (his) moves that were on the stage, I don't think there would be nearly as much of an outrage."

"I think it's because I'm a gay male," he added.

Offered a chance to apologize, he declined. He said he didn't consider that there may have been children watching because his American Music Awards performance came at nearly 11 p.m., and that it's a parent's job to monitor what their children are watching on TV.

"I'm not a baby sitter," he said. "I'm a performer."

Asked what he'd do differently if he had the chance, Lambert said, "I would sing it a little bit better."

"I guess I have a tendency to divide people," he added. "Apples and oranges—you either like it or you don't."

"For Your Entertainment" is the title cut and first single from Lambert's new album, which went on sale Monday. He didn't perform that on "The Early Show," opting instead for the songs "Whataya Want From Me" and "Music Again."

He said before performing, "Parents, this is appropriate, I promise."

Lambert took questions from fans surrounding CBS' midtown Manhattan studio, including one who said she had traveled from Japan to see him. None of the questions were about Sunday's performance.

Berlusconi is named 'Rockstar of the Year'

ROME (AP)—He's Italian premier, media mogul and one of the country's richest men. Now Silvio Berlusconi can add "Rockstar of the Year" to his caps.

The Italian edition of Rolling Stone magazine said it named Berlusconi for a "lifestyle worthy of the greatest rock stars." The magazine dedicated the cover of its December issue to a smiling Berlusconi, the red, white and green colors of the Italian flag in the backdrop.

The 73-year-old premier has been entangled in a sex scandal this year, with several young women saying they attended parties at his residences. One prostitute says she spent one night with Berlusconi in Rome but wasn't paid.

The premier has denied ever paying for sex, though he said he is "no saint."

Last year, Roberto Saviano—author of the book "Gomorrah," a crime expose on Neapolitan organized crime—became the first person to be named Rolling Stone's "Rockstar of the Year."

Julie Andrews to sing in London, first in decades

Andrews

LONDON (AP)—Julie Andrews is to perform in London, 30 years after her last appearance on the British stage.

Concert promoters AEG Europe said Wednesday the star of such musicals as "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music" will appear at London's 02 Arena on May 8.

Andrews had non-cancerous throat nodules removed in 1997. The operation initially left her unable to sing.

Andrews has since starred in "The Princess Diaries" and was the voice of Queen Lillian in the "Shrek" film series.

Tickets go on sale Thursday.

Andrews says in a statement "to perform once again in my homeland on the London stage will be a wonderful moment—it is where it all began for me."

Kingsley to play Mogul emperor who built Taj Mahal

HONG KONG (AP)—Ben Kingsley, famous for his Oscar-winning portrayal of Indian independence hero Mohandas Gandhi, is reaching deeper into the country's history with a new role as the Mogul emperor who ordered the construction of the Taj Mahal.

Kingsley will star as Shah Jahan in "Taj," 27 years after his award winning performance in "Gandhi." Indian superstar and former Miss World Aishwarya Rai Bachchan will play Mumtaz Mahal in the $25-30 million production, the British actor's production company, SBK Pictures, said in a statement sent Wednesday.

The Taj Mahal was built by Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan between 1632 and 1654 for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died while she was giving birth to their 14th child. Soon after its completion, Shah Jahan was deposed by his son and imprisoned at the nearby Agra Fort.

Kingsley

"With my passion for India and the Taj Mahal now becoming one of the Seven Wonders of the World, I am compelled to ask 'why' and 'how' this scream of grief frozen in marble came into being," Kingsley said in the statement.

The company said it is recruiting a director for the script penned by British writer David Ashton and is scheduled to meet with Indian investors later this month.

Kingsley, whose credits also include "House of Sand and Fog," "Schindler's List" and "Sexy Beast," is well-known in India for his Gandhi role. With Bachchan, one of the country's biggest stars, also on board, the project is likely to generate keen interest in India.

Nude photo of Polanski, Tate to be auctioned in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—A nude photo of filmmaker Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate taken just months before her death will be sold at auction next month.

The black and white photo by British photographer David Bailey will be sold by Christie's in New York on Dec. 7. It shows the topless couple embracing.

Christie's is estimating that the 33-inch-by-33 1/4-inch print will sell for $8,000 to $12,000.

Tate, Polanski's wife, was murdered in 1969 by followers of Charles Manson.

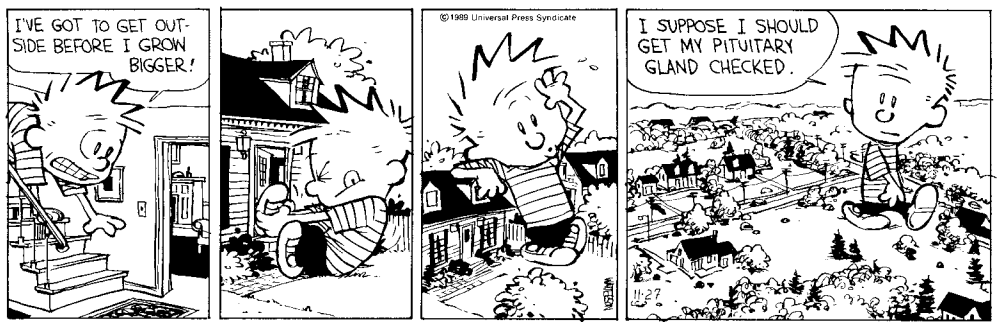
In 1977, Polanski was accused of plying a 13-year-old girl with champagne and a Quaalude pill and then raping her. He fled the United States the day he was to be sentenced on a charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Polanski was arrested in Switzerland on Sept. 26.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

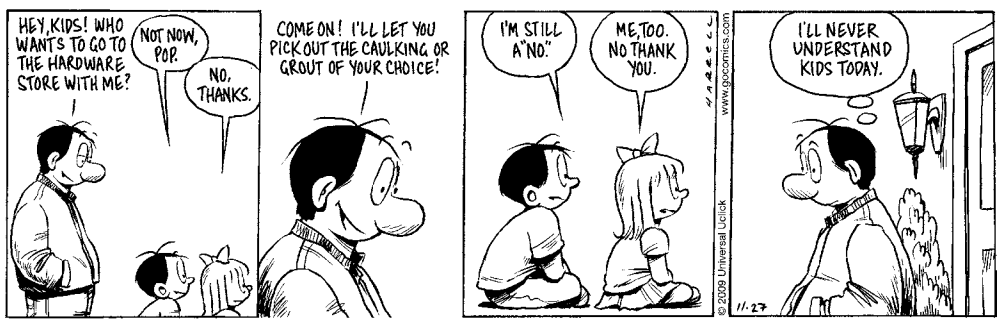

I'VE GOT TO GET OUTSIDE BEFORE I GROW BIGGER!
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GET MY PITUITARY GLAND CHECKED.
11-27

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, KIDS! WHO WANTS TO GO TO THE HARDWARE STORE WITH ME?
NOT NOW, POP.
NO, THANKS.
COME ON! I'LL LET YOU PICK OUT THE CAULKING OR GROUT OF YOUR CHOICE!
I'M STILL A "NO."
ME, TOO. NO THANK YOU.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND KIDS TODAY.
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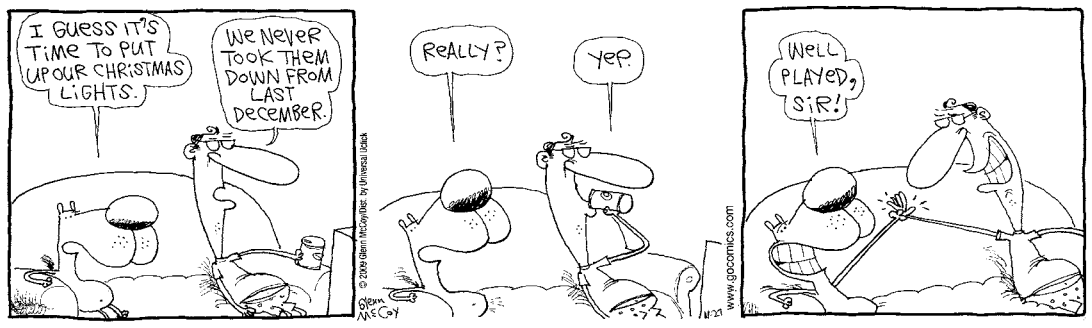
11-27

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I GUESS IT'S TIME TO PUT UP OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.
WE NEVER TOOK THEM DOWN FROM LAST DECEMBER.
REALLY?
YEP.
WELL PLAYED, SIR!
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

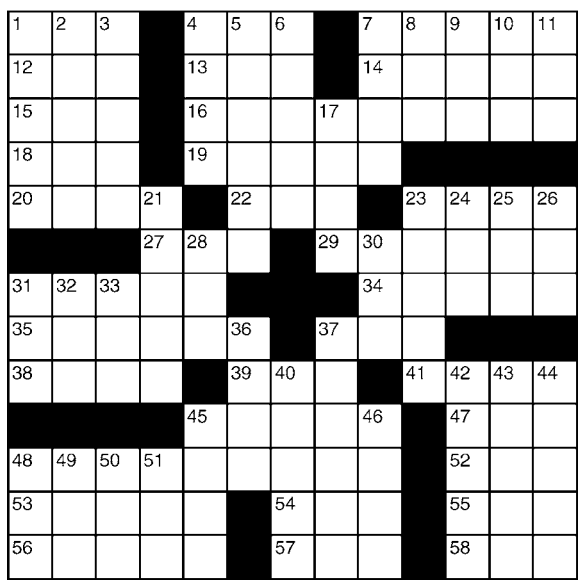
ACROSS
1 Confucian path
4 "Phooey!"
7 Enjoyed immensely
12 Tattooist's need
13 Kimono closer
14 Coup group
15 Literary collection
16 Dry red table wine
18 Agt.
19 Stranger
20 Graph line
22 One side of the Ural Mts.
23 Responsibility
27 Father and son
29 Fairly recent
31 Perpendicular, at sea
34 "Gasoline —"
35 Wicked
37 Regret
38 Versifier
39 Have bills
41 Aquarium
45 Pirate ship punishment site
47 Bill's partner
48 Weed used to make wine
52 Anderson's "High —"
53 Where the elated walk
54 Dead heat
55 My country, 'tis of thee
56 Capital of Belarus
57 Prior to
58 Corral

DOWN
1 Pageant winner's topper
2 Building wing
3 Giraffe's cousin
4 Legendary TV clown
5 Tolerates
6 Certain Indian
7 Open some
8 Large cask
9 Conclusion
10 Salt Lake athlete
11 Crony
17 Flowerless plant
21 Roundtree role
23 Little hooter
24 Zero
25 Work with
26 Bashful
28 Ostrich's kin
30 — de cologne
31 Cleo's slayer
32 Story of a lifetime?
33 Compass dir.
36 Lounge around
37 "The Bathers" painter
40 Ralph of "The Waltons"
42 Misbehave
43 Lasso part
44 Islam sacred text
45 Fringe benefit
46 Banjo supporter
48 Comical DeLuise
49 Blackbird
50 A Bobbsey twin
51 Insult

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	C	■	C	O	M	O	■	P	E	G	S
I	D	O	■	R	E	A	M	■	L	E	A	P
C	O	M	M	E	R	C	E	■	A	L	M	A
■	■	M	I	D	■	K	N	E	S	S	E	T
D	I	O	X	I	N	■	S	A	T	■	■	■
A	D	D	■	T	I	O	■	T	I	C	K	S
W	E	E	P	■	P	U	B	■	C	O	N	E
N	A	S	A	L	■	R	A	Y	■	M	E	A
■	■	■	J	E	D	■	H	E	L	M	E	T
V	I	T	A	M	I	N	■	S	E	A	■	■
A	L	U	M	■	C	O	M	M	U	N	A	L
M	I	R	A	■	E	P	E	E	■	D	I	E
P	E	N	S	■	S	E	W	N	■	O	R	E

Yesterday's answer 11-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaleel White, 33; Brooke Langton, 39; Robin Givens, 45; Fisher Stevens, 46

Happy Birthday: It's time to take a shot at something you've wanted to do for some time. It's all about following your heart but using your head to get to the place you want to be. Don't second-guess your desires or you will lose valuable time that should be put into making your dreams, hopes and wishes come true. Your numbers are 2, 5, 25, 27, 34, 38, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will start to recognize what you need to accomplish between now and the end of the year. Acquire the information that will help you make the right decisions. Someone from your past will try to take advantage of you again. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Nothing will drop in your lap but, if you push for what you want, you will do OK. Don't let someone's selfishness or poor judgment bring you down. Focus on what's important and make your dreams come true. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let unexpected changes set you back. Whatever happens will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Acceptance on your part is all it will take to put you in a good position. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be emotionally challenged and easily trapped by someone who wants to argue. Don't waste time; discuss the issues head-on. You may need to be pushed in order to get on with your life. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Shop for special items and you will find bargains that will help you stay within your budget. Arrange a trip that will take you back to your roots. Don't lament over something or someone that has run its course. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put your efforts into fixing up your digs. Decorating or adding value to your place will help you feel better about your life and your direction. It's time to rethink your future and head in a direction more suitable to your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will find your options confusing. The people you are surrounded by may be split regarding beliefs, traditions and background culture. Try to remain true to yourself. Keeping a neutral position will help you utilize the best of everything. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Shopping or visiting a friend you miss will brighten your day. Stop worrying so much about home and family and cut yourself some slack. It's time for you to have a little fun and enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Spice up your life a little. There is money to be made but, if you let it slip through your fingers, you won't be any further ahead. Your quick wit and versatile way of handling others will help you excel. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Expect to get a quick jolt from someone who thinks you are heading in the wrong direction. An older or more experienced individual may save you from a costly mistake if you are willing to listen. If you let love or your emotions sway you, it will end in disaster. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Good fortune can be yours but only if you make some serious choices about your future. Focus on career opportunities or services you can offer. A partnership with someone industrious will help you get things moving. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The more you learn now, the better prepared you will be in the new year. Expect to be forced to make a change. Make the most of whatever comes your way. A positive attitude will speak volumes. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, playful and determined to be in the lead. You are fun-loving, high-spirited and always in search of adventure.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		9		4		3	
		2				1		
	4						6	
6				2				4
			4		5			
5				1				3
	2						7	
		6				8		
	8		5		3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	7	9	6	2	8	4	3	1
3	2	1	9	4	7	5	6	8
6	8	4	1	5	3	9	2	7
9	1	5	7	6	4	3	8	2
4	3	8	2	1	9	7	5	6
7	6	2	8	3	5	1	9	4
2	5	3	4	7	6	8	1	9
1	9	7	5	8	2	6	4	3
8	4	6	3	9	1	2	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUNROOFS **Solution: 8 letters**

S	M	E	F	E	M	L	S	W	I	T	C	H	W	K
V	L	E	V	O	D	T	I	G	H	T	N	I	C	O
F	E	O	T	O	L	A	V	G	T	I	N	U	L	O
E	B	R	R	S	M	D	H	I	H	D	R	N	O	E
A	T	E	S	T	Y	E	I	S	N	T	E	W	S	M
T	N	C	Z	A	N	S	R	N	N	Y	E	X	E	A
U	E	I	P	I	T	O	P	E	G	I	L	G	I	R
R	R	L	A	E	S	I	C	O	V	E	R	L	R	F
E	A	Y	R	U	X	U	L	(T)	I	R	O	A	I	G
S	P	R	T	K	L	O	T	(I)	M	L	L	S	N	N
O	S	C	S	S	N	S	O	(L)	T	O	E	S	S	I
P	N	A	N	H	U	A	F	(T)	S	Y	D	R	T	D
E	A	A	C	J	C	I	R	T	C	E	L	E	A	I
N	R	E	D	O	M	F	A	C	T	O	R	Y	L	L
T	T	A	U	T	O	M	O	B	I	L	E	S	L	S

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Above, Acrylic, Adjust, Automobiles, Close, Controls, Cover, Crank, Electric, Factory, Features, Fixed, Folding, Frame, Glass, Install, Light, Luxury, Models, Modern, Mount, Open, Parts, Remove, Seal, Shade, Size, Sliding, Solar, Spoiler, Switch, System, Technology, Tight, Tilt, Translucent, Transparent, Truck, Unit, Versatility, View, Vinyl, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Ginger

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Marianas Maid Services
Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LONGITUDE
READING
LATITUDE

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution: Reading between the lines

Huang Shun Corporation (Tinian)
D.b.a. Tinian Pop'z Hot Pepper
P.O. Box 335
San Jose Village, Tinian, Mp 96952
Is in need of:
1-Hot Pepper Sauce maker
Contact: Henny or Sunny at 433-0105

EMPLOYMENT

Certified FAA Aircraft Mechanic: Starting salary: $2200.00. FAA License and two years work experience required. Submit application at 2F Saipan International Airport. Look for Pacific Airport Services (PAS)

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
We Buy Used Computer & Printer.
233-5641
Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

FOR SALE
YELLOW FLAME TREE'S
1 gallon size $20.00-$30.00
322-5691•285-6626

HELP WANTED
Looking for Sexy Dancer
• Female
• IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

TJM Lawn Care Services
$30.00 WE OFFER per house 500 sqm (negotiable)
Contact: Tahira S. Miah
Tel: 288-8897 • Cel: 287-8896

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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233-2644 OR 532-0478
(LEAVE MESSAGE)

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Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

Beasley's late dunk propels Heat over Magic

At Orlando, Florida, Michael Beasley dunked a missed shot by Dwyane Wade with 1.6 seconds remaining to lift Miami to a victory over Orlando.

Wade's jumper was short, and Beasley soared in the air to take the rebound and seal the victory, which didn't come without controversy. Dwight Howard and the Magic bench pleaded for a goaltending call to no avail.

Beasley had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Wade overcame a slow start to finish with 24 points to help Miami rally from an 11-point deficit.

AP

Miami Heat forward Michael Beasley walks downcourt after making the winning basket with 1.6 seconds remaining to defeat the Orlando Magic 99-98 in an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009.

Nuggets 124, Timberwolves 111

At Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points and Nene had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Denver Nuggets handed the Minnesota Timberwolves their 14th straight loss with a victory.

The Timberwolves have not won since an opening night victory over New Jersey. Their 1-14 mark is the worst 15-game start in team history.

Corey Brewer had the first double-double of his career with a career-high 22 points and 13 rebounds. Jonny Flynn scored 20 points for the Wolves, who cut the lead to eight points in the fourth before fading to yet another loss.

Cavaliers 98, Pistons 88

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, LeBron James scored 12 of his 34 points in the first quarter to help Cleveland build a cushion it used to cruise to a win over Detroit.

James' strong start gave the Cavs a nine-point lead to start the second quarter. Reserve Daniel Gibson and Mo Williams combined to score 18 points in the second quarter to put them ahead by 18 at halftime.

Pacers 86, Clippers 73

At Indianapolis, Troy Murphy had 18 points and 11 rebounds as Indiana beat the Los Angeles Clippers to snap a four-game losing streak.

Dahntay Jones scored 18 and Brandon Rush added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers.

Baron Davis had 25 points and Marcus Camby added 15 points and 21 rebounds for the Clippers.

Celtics 113, 76ers 110

At Boston, Rajon Rondo scored six points during a key run early in the fourth quarter and made a shot clock-beating jump shot on the baseline in the closing seconds as Boston overcame poor 3-point shooting to beat Philadelphia.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 27 points, including a game-tying 3-pointer early in the 14-3 spurt. Kevin Garnett had 19 points and Ray Allen 18. Rondo finished with 10 points and seven assists.

Andre Iguodala paced the undermanned 76ers with 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Jason Kapono had a season-high 20 points and Willie Green added 18.

Bobcats 116, Raptors 81

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace broke out of his shooting slump with 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to help Charlotte to the most lopsided victory in team history, over Toronto.

Stephen Jackson added 23 points for Charlotte, which dominated the listless Raptors. The sixth-year Bobcats' previous biggest win was a 32-point rout of Indiana on Nov. 16, 2005.

Chris Bosh had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Andrea Bargnani scored 15 for the Raptors.

Spurs 118, Warriors 104

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 32 points as San Antonio overcame another iron man performance by Monta Ellis in a victory over Golden State.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who used a 22-3 run spanning the third and fourth quarters for their season-best third consecutive victory.

One night after a season-high, 37-point performance in a 111-103 victory at Dallas, Ellis topped it by scoring 42 points on 16-of-25 shooting to tie his career high.

Mavericks 130, Rockets 99

At Houston, Jason Kidd moved into second place on the NBA's career assists list and Jason Terry scored 27 points as the Dallas Mavericks shot 65.5 percent in a victory over Houston.

Kidd delivered seven assists to reach 10,337 in his career. He came in needing five to pass Mark Jackson's career total (10,334), and now trails only John Stockton (15,806).

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 and Tim Thomas added a season-high 23 for the Mavericks. Carl Landry scored 24 points for the Rockets, who've lost 14 of their last 18 games against Dallas.

Hornets 102, Bucks 99

At New Orleans, David West had 27 points and 10 rebounds as New Orleans defeated Milwaukee.

Rookie point guard Darren Collison scored 18 points, including a 3-pointer to tie it with 7.5 seconds left in regulation.

Luke Ridnour scored a season-high 23 points and Hakim Warrick added 22 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee, which lost its second straight.

Suns 126, Grizzlies 111

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 18 of his 28 points during a torrid third quarter as Phoenix beat Memphis for its 15th consecutive home victory.

In the third quarter, the scintillating, high-scoring Suns hit their first 12 field-goal attempts and finished the quarter 17 for 20.

Report: Iverson set to retire

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—With no apparent interest from NBA teams, Allen Iverson is set to retire, according to an online report.

Commentator Stephen A. Smith published a statement on his Web site Wednesday attributed to Iverson. It said Iverson plans to retire but also that "I feel strongly that I can still compete at the highest level."

The statement also said Iverson has tremendous love for the game and the desire to play, adding there is "a whole lot left in my tank."

"His legacy would be huge," Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star LeBron James said. "He's one of the best when you talk about guys 6-foot and under in the game of basketball. He played injured and he played hard every single night. I don't think it should end this way, but if it does, he's left a lot of great things behind."

The 10-time All-Star played three games this season with Memphis before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

It was the second straight ugly ending for Iverson, who was unhappy last season playing for the Pistons. He was upset that Detroit coach Michael Curry and Memphis' Lionel Hollins used the former MVP as a reserve.

The New York Knicks considered signing Iverson last week after he cleared waivers, before deciding he would take too much playing time away from younger players they are trying to develop.

The Knicks seemed to be the only team who would consider bringing in Iverson, so there was no guarantee he'd play in the NBA this season, anyway. Still, the announcement Wednesday came as a surprise to George Karl, who coached Iverson in Denver.

"I think he still has something left to give some team out there. If that's his decision, he'll go down in history, I think, as the greatest little guard ever to play the game of basketball," Karl said.

"I was happy to have him for a couple years and hopefully our paths will cross. But I have a sneaky feeling that somewhere along the way an injury or a circumstance with a team will open that window back up."

One of the NBA's great scorers, Iverson entered this season with a career average of 27.1 points that ranked fifth all time. Yet there was almost no interest in him this summer before he went to the Grizzlies on a one-year deal.

Iverson can still score, as he averaged 17.4 points with the Pistons last season. Yet he has made it clear he doesn't view himself as a backup, which has likely hurt his chances of signing with a contending team.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-038

"PROJECT MONITORING SERVICES"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"MONITORING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SATURDAY SCHOOL AND THE FEDERALLY FUNDED INNOVATIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT THE 20 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND 26 PRIVATE SCHOOLS."** The scope of work is available beginning November 27, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664.3767 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than December 21, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 09-038" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, December 24, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Giants know exactly what Broncos are going through

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The New York Giants just escaped their own month of misery. So they understand the seething frustration and loss of poise in Denver, where sideline shoves, the head coach's cockiness and players-only meetings are all the buzz.

The Broncos (6-4) have lost four in a row and blown what was once a 3 1/2-game division cushion. The Giants (6-4) snapped their own four-game slid, which cost them the NFC East lead, by beating Atlanta in overtime Sunday.

The two second-place teams meet Thursday night at Invesco Field as the Broncos host their first Thanksgiving game since 1963 in the AFL.

Denver is at the low point of the season following a 32-3 thrashing Sunday at the hands of the San Diego Chargers, who supplanted them atop the AFC West. Broncos coach Josh McDaniels exchanged heated words with some of San Diego's linebackers during warmups, then watched his team come undone with silly penalties and an ugly sideline spat while losing both its composure and its fourth straight game.

Although McDaniels has declined to discuss his own trash talking with the opponent, he did say he's an emotional coach with a team full of emotional players who need to keep their poise.

"You can't be all over the place emotionally," Denver defensive leader Brian Dawkins concurred. "That doesn't usually lead to a lot of success."

AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) talks to Giants tight end Kevin Boss (89) during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Dawkins called a players-only meeting Tuesday to get some things off his chest.

"It felt great," running back Correll Buckhalter said. "I think we needed it to get all our players on the same page."

Cornerback Champ Bailey said some attitudes needed adjusting but he won't know until Thursday night if the "no coaches allowed" meeting did any good.

"I was fairly encouraged just to talk to some of my teammates," Bailey said. "But what's going to encourage me more is if we play better. It's not really what people say, it's what they do."

And lately, the Broncos have been talking a good game but playing bad ones.

Their offense has been stuck in low gear, their defense is springing leaks, especially against the run, and their special teams are dreadful.

Sounds a lot like the Giants before they snapped out of their funk.

Defensive end Osi Umenyiora said New York's first win in 42 days felt like a brick wall was lifted on their backs.

"We were getting killed around here," he said. "Coming to work wasn't as much fun as it used to be when you were winning. Nobody likes to lose. We are accustomed to winning as of late. It was very, very important and we are happy to get that done."

As much as players talk about putting games behind them and moving on to the next opponent, winning streaks and losing streaks both have a way of lingering.

When you win, Giants quarterback Eli Manning said, "everybody is smiling a little bit easier and they are excited about the win and how everything is going. When you start losing you get down a little bit and things aren't as enjoyable. People aren't laughing as easy. You are still practicing the same, preparing the same. You go through the same steps. It's not as fun when you're not winning."

"So it is good to get that win and get that sense of that winning feeling back in the locker room, ... kind of see the smiles after the game after a long stretch where you haven't won a game."

The Broncos are envious. They haven't won since Oct. 19.

They went through this same kind of skid last year, blowing a three-game lead over the last three weeks of the season to lose the division title, leading to an offseason of upheaval.

"The good thing about this year is it's right in the middle of the season," Bailey suggested. "So, we've got time to overcome that. Last year, we slid off at the end."

The Broncos' 6-0 start is a faded memory now that opponents have discovered their soft underbelly: running the ball straight up the gut.

Denver has allowed opponents to run for an average of 145 yards during the skid, controlling the second half by grinding out the clock.

Dawkins expects the Giants to try the same tactic that worked wonders for Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Washington and San Diego and hand the ball off early and often.

"Absolutely. Why wouldn't you? If you were an opposing coach, why wouldn't you do that? Why wouldn't you test that out?" Dawkins said. "They're a running team anyway, so they're going to do it anyway, but why wouldn't you?"

Maybe because the Giants will be short-handed in the backfield with backup Ahmad Bradshaw (ankle) sidelined. So, they'll have to be careful not to overwork Brandon Jacobs and wear him out in the Mile High air.

Several Broncos said they were glad they had a short week to get back on the field for another shot at snapping their losing streak. Not Dawkins.

"Do I like playing on Thanksgiving? No, I would I love to be sitting and watching somebody else play if I had my choice," he said.

Giants defensive end Justin Tuck doesn't mind missing out on a big feast, though.

"I eat every day. I am not worried about necessarily eating on Thanksgiving Day," he said. "Hopefully I get to eat some quarterbacks."

Lions have lost their touch on Thanksgiving

DETROIT (AP)—The Green Bay Packers are hoping to bolster their postseason chances with a win at Detroit on Thanksgiving.

Recent history suggests the Lions will be accommodating hosts.

Detroit has lost five straight games on the holiday by an average of 23.4 points since beating the Packers in 2003, and its worst game this season was at Green Bay.

The Lions (2-8), though, are enjoying a positive buzz they haven't had since starting 6-2 two years ago. They rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat Cleveland last Sunday for the franchise's biggest comeback victory since 1957.

"Our locker room is on a high right now," Detroit center Dominic Raiola said. "We're motivated to keep it that way after we were embarrassed at Green Bay. We have something to prove to the Packers, and everybody else watching us on national TV. The last time we were on national TV, last Thanksgiving, we got embarrassed by Tennessee.

"We've got to put our foot down and start winning this game. Since I've been here, we've only beat Green Bay. The Lions used to not lose on Thanksgiving."

The Lions slump on Thanksgiving—losing seven of eight—has been bad enough to put them one game under .500 in their annual showcase.

Detroit won four straight and nine of 12 on Thanksgiving before ex-general manager Matt Millen arrived in 2001, taking Raiola in his first draft, and turned a lackluster franchise into a laughingstock.

First-year coach Jim Schwartz has tried to stress the importance of Detroit's traditional game to his players.

"It's not just everybody watching, it's everybody with relatives meeting up with families," Schwartz said. "They're all just sitting around the living room waiting for the turkey and the apple pie and they're going to turn the game on.

"There's some urgency to it from the standpoint that you're on national television and there's a pride thing."

Detroit's chances to win—or at least be entertaining—will be directly tied to the health of Matthew Stafford and Calvin Johnson.

Stafford (shoulder) and Johnson (hand/knee) were both hurt in Sunday's win over the Browns and were unable to practice two days later in Detroit's only full practice of the week. Stafford was listed as doubtful and Johnson questionable.

The last time the Lions didn't have Stafford and Johnson on the field, it wasn't pretty for them. Green Bay took advantage with a 26-0 win last month.

"We played probably our worst game of the year," Schwartz said.

Green Bay (6-4) won't have any sympathy for the banged-up Lions because it lost cornerback Al Harris and linebacker Aaron Kampman to season-ending knee injuries in last week's win over San Francisco.

Tramon Williams is expected to fill in for Harris and rookie Brad Jones, a seventh-round pick, is slated to play in Kampman's place.

The Packers did get some good news Wednesday when center Scott Wells practiced a day after a knee injury held him out of workouts.

Receiver Greg Jennings said the offense might have to do more than usual to make up for the depleted defense.

"Losing those guys definitely hurt," Jennings said. "But as an offensive guy, you kind of take it on yourself to make sure we do our job even more, put more points on the board, take more stress off the defense."

Against Detroit, that shouldn't be a problem.

Brady Quinn threw four touchdown passes, surpassing the career total he had in three seasons, against a team that ranks 31st overall and last against the pass.

"I think you can make a mistake when you look at a team just in their last game," said Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy, who is 7-0 against the Lions. "They're going to make adjustments and they'll have a good plan for us on Thursday."

The Lions might want to rip up their game plans from their last three games against Aaron Rodgers, who has almost 1,000 yards passing, eight touchdowns and one interceptions against them.

Rodgers insisted it's not difficult to take Detroit seriously because of what the Packers have at stake.

"It's an important time for us," he said. "We know what December holds, four straight outdoor cold games. We're going to enjoy this indoor game and hopefully get to 7-4."

Report: Buffalo Bills meet with Shanahan

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Two-time Super Bowl winner Mike Shanahan met with the Buffalo Bills to discuss their head coaching vacancy, according to a published report.

ESPN.com on Wednesday reported that Bills chief operating officer Russ Brandon traveled to Denver and spent seven hours meeting with Shanahan on Monday night and Tuesday morning. Shanahan was quoted as saying he had "an excellent meeting."

Shanahan, however, added the two sides agreed to stay in touch to see what develops. He's been out of football since being fired as Broncos coach after last season.

The Bills (3-7), who host Miami on Sunday, were not immediately available for comment. Perry Fewell made his debut as interim coach last weekend after Dick Jauron was fired.

Feds seek rehearing of baseball drug list ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Solicitor General Elena Kagan asked for an unprecedented reconsideration of an appeals court ruling that government agents illegally seized drug-testing samples and records of baseball players who allegedly tested positive for steroids in 2003.

Kagan and 22 lawyers from the Justice Department and U.S. Attorney's offices asked the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals to have all 27 of its judges rehear the long-running case that involves the results of 104 players the government says tested positive during baseball's 2003 survey.

Although the names of the players in dispute are under seal and were to remain confidential, the identities of four have been leaked to the media: Alex Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz and Sammy Sosa.

The government's brief, filed Monday, didn't address the original facts central to the case but rather new rules for computer searches that were contained in August's decision by Chief Judge Alex Kozinski.

"In some districts, computer searches have ground to a complete halt," the government wrote. "Many United States Attorney's Offices have been chilled from seeking any new warrants to search computers."

A "limited en banc" panel of 9th Circuit judges voted 9-2 in August that investigators trampled on protections against unreasonable searches when they seized the records and samples of 104 players. Prosecutors initially obtained warrants for only the test results of 10 players as part of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative investigation.

AP

Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, left, talks to the media after the annual baseball owners meeting, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, in Chicago.

Kozinski's majority opinion contained a major change in Fourth Amendment law, ruling that federal magistrates should insist the government waive reliance on the "plain view doctrine" in computer evidence searches. That doctrine allows prosecutors who obtained search warrants to use evidence of other crimes they come upon during the original search.

Kozinski also said specialized computer personnel or third parties should segregate evidence taken during computer searches and that evidence not originally targeted cannot be disclosed to government agents. He also said the government must return or destroy any non-targeted evidence that it seized.

The government said the decision conflicted with Supreme Court decisions and federal rules of criminal procedure that go into effect next month. Prosecutors cited an example in the state of Washington.

"Federal agents received information from their counterparts in San Diego that two individuals had filmed themselves raping a 4-year-old girl and traded the images via the Internet," they wrote. "The agents did not obtain a warrant to search the suspects' computers, however, because of concerns that any evidence discovered about other potential victims could not be disclosed by the filter team. The agents therefore referred the case to state authorities."

In a brief submitted Tuesday, lawyers for the Major League Baseball Players Association said the central finding of the decision should not be reviewed, but they took no opinion on the new rules.

"Those guidelines are unnecessary to the resolution of the issues presented in this case," they wrote.

Since 1980, the 9th Circuit has convened "limited en banc" panels, usually 11 judges, because of its large size and has never had all its judges hear a case.

"The broad issues unnecessarily addressed in the en banc panel's opinion are of surpassing importance and compel that extraordinary action," the government wrote.

University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor Arthur D. Hellman, an expert on the 9th Circuit, expects the court to rehear the case.

"The fact that the Solicitor General added her name sends a very clear signal that this is a very important case for the United States," Hellman said. "This is a mess that the 9th Circuit should clear up."

Any decision by the 9th Circuit could later be taken for review by the Supreme Court.

The government seized the samples and records from Comprehensive Drug Testing Inc. and Quest Diagnostics Inc. in April 2004. The players' association went to court, asking that the records and samples be returned and that subpoenas be quashed, and three District Judges ruled for the union.

When the case originally reached the 9th Circuit, a panel voted 2-1 for the government in 2006. The "limited en banc" panel overturned that decision.

"The decision significantly affects the manner in which searches of electronically stored information may be conducted," Chief Magistrate Judge Karen Stromborn of Tacoma, Wash. wrote in an Oct. 1 letter to prosecutors telling them to adhere to the new computer search guidelines.

Vizquel agrees to $1,375,000 deal with White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)—Omar Vizquel is joining a team with a long history of Venezuelan shortstops, and that was part of the attraction in coming to the Chicago White Sox.

The 42-year-old Vizquel agreed Monday to one-year contract worth nearly $1.4 million to add depth, experience and perhaps advice to a young infield. Last season, the White Sox made 113 errors.

Now they have an 11-time Gold Glove winner around, one who has spent most of his days at shortstop during a 21-year career.

"I feel pretty comfortable that I can do the job in the field, that I can still run and hit and do everything that a major league player is asked to do," Vizquel said.

Vizquel, who will turn 43 in April, will play for fellow Venezuelan Ozzie Guillen, a former shortstop who will be 46 in January.

The White Sox manager made it clear his team didn't sign Vizquel to be a coach. But Vizquel said he'll gladly be a mentor to younger infielders.

Chicago traded for Mark Teahen and he will play third; Alexei Ramirez will be at shortstop and Gordon Beckham will switch from third to second in his second season.

"I look at myself as a mentor to some other guys," Vizquel said. "I don't think that's going to be an issue. I've always been there for younger guys. I've been playing in the big leagues for a while."

With the Texas Rangers this year, Vizquel hit .266 with one homer and 14 RBIs in 62 games. He had no errors in 207 chances while playing shortstop, third and second. The slick-fielding veteran also mentored Venezuelan shortstop Elvis Andrus, the runner-up for AL Rookie of the Year.

Vizquel said he had to make an adjustment to being a utility player last season but found it to be an opportunity to see the game from a different perspective, something that could help him someday should he manage.

But right now the White Sox are also counting on him to be a productive contributor because he is still in such great shape. They guaranteed him $1,375,000.

"I think this kid is the best player to come out of my country," Guillen said. "I don't want to say kid - he's almost the same age as me."

Vizquel, a switch-hitter, has 2,704 hits. He is a career .273 hitter with 78 homers, 906 RBIs and 1,378 runs in 2,742 games with Seattle, Cleveland, San Francisco and the Rangers.

Vizquel, who has played 238 games at shortstop since turning 40, has a career fielding percentage of .984. A three-time AL All-Star, he played in the 1995 and 1997 World Series with Cleveland.

Vizquel considered joining the White Sox five years ago before signing with the San Francisco Giants following his stellar stint with the Indians.

One thing that will likely change is his number. Familiar No. 13 belongs to Guillen.

"That's going to be a hard thing. I don't think Ozzie is going to give up his number," Vizquel said.

He said he might ask countryman Luis Aparicio if can wear his retired No. 11 as a tribute. Or maybe the No. 17 that was worn by another Venezuelan shortstop who played for the White Sox, Chico Carrasquel.

Guillen said nothing has been decided but he would be reluctant to part with his number, one he wore for so many years with the White Sox.

He suggested that Vizquel try No. 23—just one digit removed—because it's such a big number in Chicago, the one most notably worn by Michael Jordan.

MLB BRIEFS

Andruw Jones agrees to deal with White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)—Andruw Jones agreed Wednesday to a $500,000, one-year contract with the Chicago White Sox. Jones hit .214 with 17 homers and 43 RBIs in 82 games with Texas this year while making 53 starts as the designated hitter, 12 in left field, five in right field and four at first base. A five-time All-Star who has slumped in recent years, Jones was released by the Los Angeles Dodgers in January and signed with the Rangers the following month. He agreed to a $36.2 million, two-year contract with Los Angeles in December 2007. Now 32, he can make an additional $1 million in performance bonuses under his agreement with the White Sox.

Jamie Moyer of Philadelphia admitted to hospital

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Phillies pitcher Jamie Moyer has been hospitalized due to recurring symptoms from groin surgery in September. The team announced Wednesday that Moyer has been admitted to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital but did not give any more information about his condition.

Suit tossed over development near Mets' stadium

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge has rejected a lawsuit by a group of businessmen hoping to block the redevelopment of an industrial area near the New York Mets' new stadium. U.S. District Judge Edward Korman said Wednesday that he was dismissing the lawsuit brought by the Willets Point Industry and Realty Association. Once a swamp and a garbage dump, Willets Point is now a jumble of scrap yards and auto repair shops. It lacks sidewalks and sewers. The lawsuit accused the city of neglecting the gritty area while it worked on plans to seize the land and redevelop it as homes, shops and offices. The judge says the city properly concluded that it didn't make sense to spend a lot on infrastructure and services before a redevelopment plan was finalized.

Diamond, Ebisuya stay unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Diamond Ali'i and Ebisuya remained spotless after outclassing separate foes in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Wednesday night at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Diamond downed New City International Construction, 93-82, to improve to a 3-0 record and take the lead in the open division. Also recording a clean 3-0 slate was Ebisuya, which prevailed over Wushin, 81-71, to keep the top spot in the masters division.

The Boy Garcia-coached Diamond Ali'i rebounded from a sluggish start and foiled NCIC's bid for an upset in the fourth quarter. NCIC led after the first period, 25-21, and although Diamond was in the driver's seat in the next two quarters, the former was still in contention in the fourth canto.

The Amor Zapata-mentored NCIC even threatened Diamond midway in the fourth, cutting the lead to four, 71-75. However, back-to-back triples from Elmer Esdrelon save Diamond from troubles, bringing the lead back to double digit, 85-75, going into the last three minutes of the game.

Diamond widened the gap further in the last two minutes before rain halted the match at the 1:03 mark of the final canto. NCIC decided to concede the game, as it was behind by 11, 93-82, and there was no way the game can resume quickly as heavy rains soaked the court.

Esdrelon led Diamond's victory anew, drilling 22 points. He had 29 in Diamond's 94-88 win over Noni Saipan on Tuesday and nailed 14 in the defending champion's debut victory over Saipan Fresh Market, 91-90, to become the team's top-scorer in its 3-0 start. J.R. Barrios chipped in 17, while Mel Capalad contributed 13.

Jun Tabora had 25 markers for NCIC, which remained winless in two games.

In the masters division, Ebisuya drew double figures from three players to record a 10-point win over Wushin.

Francis Rebuyon fired 16 markers for Ebisuya, dropping eight in the second quarter to help his team pad its three-point lead in the first period, 13-10, to seven at halftime, 33-26.

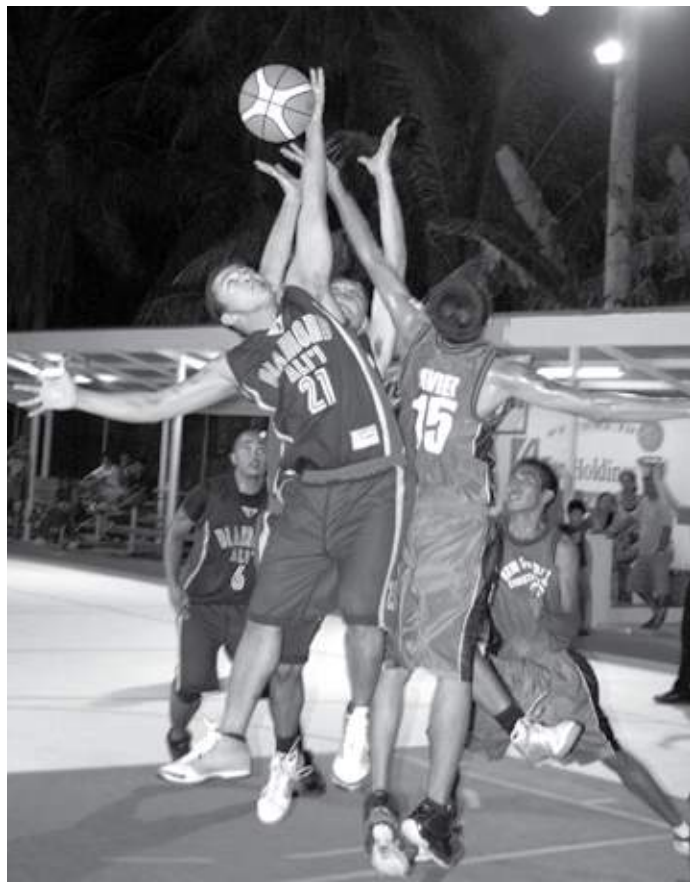
Abedes took over in the third period, scoring 10 of his 15 markers in that canto, as Ebisuya made it a 56-45 tally. Rebuyon, Edwin Santos, and Casabuena then combined for 19 of Ebisuya's 25 points in the final canto to keep the lead and the win.

Masters

Ebisuya 81 – Rebuyon 16, Abedes 15, Casabuena 12, Santos 9, Opone 8, Moises 7, Tengco 7, Viola 4, Morales 3.

Wushin 71 – Ebuen 24, Tobias 14, Trajano 12, Garon 7, Dayrit 3, Leong 2, Carino 2, Lansang 2, De Jesus 1.

Scoring by quarters: 13-10, 33-26, 56-45, 81-71.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Diamond Ali'i's Glenn Mercurio, left, and Badong Camacho, center, go for the rebound against NCIC's Joel Javier during their game in the PILCOWA caging on Wednesday night at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Open

Diamond Ali'i 93 – Esdrelon 22, Barrios 17, M. Capalad 13, Mercurio 9, Artates 7, W. Capalad 7, Talania 5, Camacho 4, Manalo 3, B. Montano 3, J. Montano 3.

NCIC 82 – Tabora 25, Lansang 17, Ong 14, Javier 11, L. Deleon Guerrero 5, Abenoja 4, Geneblazo 2, R. Deleon Guerrero 2, Cabrera 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-25, 45-33, 68-59, 93-82.

JACK

From Page 36

island soaked as heavy rains started to fall midway through the race.

In yesterday's race, runners enjoyed a cool breeze when majority of them made it to the finish line. A light shower came when the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics were starting to give away raffle prizes to more than 80 participants, kids and adults alike.

"I like racing in this type of weather. The cool air gives my lungs more power, unlike when I am running in hot weather, I easily get exhausted," said Kabiriel, who kept pace with overall third placer Mike Brown from the starting line in Lower Base to Capital Hill and was behind by a few meters against pacesetter and eventual runner-up Kam Bae Ji.

Kabiriel took control of the race on the right turn going up to Mt. Tapochao, finishing .42 seconds ahead of Kam (40:58) and 3:05 against Brown (43:21).

Oshima-Berger was the fourth overall finisher with her time of 43:56, while CNMI tennis coach Jeff Race, who slowed down in the last two years of the event as he tried to race along with her daughter, Gabrielle, came in fifth overall with a time of 45:36. Oshima-Berger's time yesterday eclipsed her record of 44:09 last year when she won the women's division. Yesterday's race was also a bit easier for Oshima-Berger, as she favored running uphill.

Kabiriel and Oshima-Berger received gift certificates for two roasted turkeys for placing first overall in the men's and women's divisions, respectively. Also receiving the same prizes for ruling their respective age group were John Auther, Angelo Jones, Lia Rangamar, Brown, Katie Peters, Nikki Gabaldon, Josh Stevens, Kam, Dan Calvo, and Marcia Schultz.

Auther topped the 12-and-under age group with his time of 51:36 and was the second kid finisher behind Jones, who prevailed in the 17-and-under division after completing the race in 48:19. Rangamar won the girls' 17-and-under division after submitting 1:05:33.

Brown reigned in the men's open division, while Peters took the women's open title after timing in at 48:18. Gabaldon triumphed in the women's 30-and-above division with her time of 47:17, while Stevens ruled the men's division with her 52:51.

Kam and Heather Kennedy (50:15) won the 40-and-above age group, while Calvo (53:17) and Schultz (1:06:33) thrived in the 50-and-above division.

SONICS

From Page 36

semis berths.

Pairings for the first round of the playoffs will be No. 8 vs. No. 9, No. 4 vs. No. 5, No. 2 vs. No. 7, and No. 3 vs. No. 6.

Melvin Cadiang led the Sonics' eight-point triumph over the Rollers, firing 12 points, while Adrian Palacios and John Paul Villanueva chipped in eight and seven markers, respectively.

"The game was close from the start, but my boys continued to play pressure defense, disrupting the Rollers' offense," Sonics coach Jesse Tudela said.

"I am proud of my boys for winning against a much taller Rollers team. I give the Rollers credit for keeping the game close and showing their veteran skills. I wish them luck for the remaining games in the tournament. As for my boys, I want believe they will continue to grow and develop their skills because they are still young and interested to learn more," Tudela added.

Tudela, his 12-man roster, and assistant coach Omar Ajoste left Saipan for the Guam caging on Friday and quickly earned two wins in the 16-and-under age group, beating the Yellow Jackets (52-48) and Yigo Jokers (40-25) on Sunday.

The Sonics coach said their trip to Guam was made possible through generous sponsors and the players' parents.

"I want to thank all of our supporters and most especially the parents of my boys for giving their kids the opportunity to play basketball and supporting their son's interest. Happy Thanksgiving to all," Tudela said.

Meanwhile, Rollers capitalized on an undermanned Barrigada Crusaders, eking out a 43-41 win in the 14-and-under division. Crusaders played with only six players.

MANACOP

From Page 36

geles (3,723) and teammate Raymond Zapanta (3,652) came in 21st and 27th best, while Team Saipan's Kitz Barja (3,418) and Alex Castro (3,305) wound up 42nd and 46th, respectively.

Capital Hill's Raphael Zapanta (3,163), Team Saipan's Percy Omechalang (3,094), and Jared Gutierrez (3,090) finished from 55th to 57th places in the 59-player men's field.

In the Women's All Events, Pohang teammates Yoon Jun Sil (4,044) and Kim Hee Jung (4,007) finished 1-2, while Paranaque's Lara Posadas took third place with her 3,885.

Shah Alam's Yap Win Yin (3,817), Tamuning's Felymar Mandapat (3,763), Paranaque's Cecilia Yap (3,739) and Liza Clutario (3,726), Tamuning's Shelee Javier (3,710), Pasay's Yap Seok Kim (3,656) and Angeli Lao (3,623), Shah Alam's Choy Poi Lai (3,504), Pasay's Sheena Angeli Go (3,487), Tamuning's Leanne Rankin (3,407), Pasay's Ditas Red (3,450), Daegu's Choi Kyung Yeon (3,384) and Kim Eun Sook (3,368) complete the Top 16 in the Women's All Events.

Diana Camacho was Team Saipan's best female bowler in the tournament with her Women's All Events score of 3,103. Elsa "Gigi" Zapanta came away with 3,034, followed by Emi Williams (3,027) and Gloria Omechalang (2,973).

The foursome of Angeles, brothers Raymond and Raphael Zapanta, and Gutierrez, meanwhile, finished 10th in the men's Team of 4 event held last Wednesday with their total of 4,624 pinfalls.

Manacop, Barja, Percy Omechalang, and Castro came in 13th of 15 teams with their 4,380.

Daegu expectedly won the men's Team of 4 with Choi, Bae, Shin, and Kim knocking down 5,514 pins. Tamuning came in second (5,357) with Hong Kong third (4,959).

In the women's Team of 4 Mandapat, Rankin, Javier, and Marie Velasco of Tamuning took first place with their 4,887 pinfalls. Second belonged to Paranaque with their 4,806, while Pohang took third place with their 4,786.

Williams, Camacho, Zapanta, and Gloria Omechalang wound up eighth with their 3,969.

The 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships winds down tonight with the conclusion of the men's and women's masters events.

THANKS

From Page 36

from Saipan now in Hawaii and those I met at the airport. People could just not make sense of it. Rational minds often have difficulty comprehending irrational acts.

After losing three children and both parents, I think about life and death a lot whether I want to or not. Cannot help it. That's why each morning after I wake up I pause for reflection, give thanks for the life I have, vow to make that day special in some way and pledge to do my best to make others happy. I did not choose to be born and therefore consider life given to me by God to be precious. I should at least show some appreciation.

When I interviewed the *man'amko* at their Thanksgiving luncheon sponsored by the Rotary Club, I asked what they were most thankful for. The most common answer was that they were thankful for God and life itself.

Sports is the layer of activity we add to our lives for enjoyment after we take care of all our essentials. This week in considering all the possible subjects to write about, nothing seemed to be more important than the loss of four innocent people, two of them young children. They never had a chance.

Yesterday we enjoyed our holiday with lots of food and goodwill, with prayers going out to those families in Kannat Tabla. Thanksgiving Day comes just once a year but thanks for living should come every day.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	4	.733	–
Toronto	7	9	.438	4 1/2
Philadelphia	5	10	.333	6
New York	3	12	.200	8
New Jersey	0	15	.000	11

Southeast Division

Atlanta	11	3	.786	–
Orlando	11	4	.733	1/2
Miami	9	5	.643	2
Charlotte	5	9	.357	6
Washington	4	9	.308	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	11	4	.733	–
Milwaukee	8	5	.615	2
Chicago	6	7	.462	4
Indiana	6	7	.462	4
Detroit	5	10	.333	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	11	4	.733	–
San Antonio	7	6	.538	3
Houston	8	7	.533	3
New Orleans	7	9	.438	4 1/2
Memphis	5	10	.333	6

Northwest Division

Denver	11	4	.733	–
Portland	12	5	.706	–
Oklahoma City	8	7	.533	3
Utah	7	7	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	1	14	.067	10

Pacific Division

Phoenix	12	3	.800	–
L.A. Lakers	11	3	.786	1/2
Sacramento	6	8	.429	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	6	10	.375	6 1/2
Golden State	5	9	.357	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 86, L.A. Clippers 73
Charlotte 116, Toronto 81
Boston 113, Philadelphia 110
Miami 99, Orlando 98
New Orleans 102, Milwaukee 99, OT
Cleveland 98, Detroit 88
Denver 124, Minnesota 111
San Antonio 118, Golden State 104
Dallas 130, Houston 99
Phoenix 126, Memphis 111
Sacramento 111, New York 97
Portland 93, New Jersey 83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA STANDINGS

	W	L	Sets Won
Pwipwise	8	2	22
Random Radicals	8	2	19
Chewnutt Crew	8	2	16
Angamwas	7	2	15
Shogunai	6	3	15
O-No	5	5	16
Make It Bali	3	5	10
Special Delivery	4	5	9
Git It	4	5	9
Fisingan	2	7	7
Just Do It	2	7	6
Manta Diver	0	10	3

PILCOWA STANDINGS

Open

Diamond	3	0
IT&E	1	0
Saipan Fresh	1	0
Noni Saipan	0	2
NCIC	0	2

Masters

Ebisuya	3	0
Wushin	1	1
GEC	1	1
University of Loyola	1	1
Cool Water	0	3

Tight race for No. 1 spot in NMIVA league

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REPORTER

The race for the No. 1 spot in the 2009 PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIFA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League is still too close to call with three playing days left on the PIC sandcourt.

Three teams are tied for the best record in the regular season with Pwipwise, Random Radicals, and Chenutt Crew holding identical 8-2 marks. Pwipwise temporarily has the edge in the tiebreak, as it has earned 22 sets won against the 19 and 16 of Random Radical and Chenutt Crew, respectively.

All three teams have one game left apiece and results of their last matches will determine which squad will get the top seeding in the single-elimination playoffs and the pennant. Chenutt Crew will face the winless Manta Diver (0-10) in its last game on Dec. 3, Pwipwise will challenge O-No, also on Dec. 3, and Random Radicals will duel Git It on Dec. 8

The team to clinch the No. 1 spot after the round-robin regular season will meet the last-seeded squad in the next round. Only the Top 8 teams will make it to the playoffs.

Besides Pwipwise, Random Radicals, and Chenutt Crew, other teams that have strong chances to march to the next round are Angamwas (7-2), Shogunai (6-3), O-No (5-5), Special Delivery (4-5), and Git It (5-5). Make It Bali (3-5), Fisingan (2-7), and Just Do It's (2-7) bids for playoffs seats will depend on the performance of their higher-ranked foes.

Random Radicals and Chenutt Crew strengthened their chances for the top seeding in the playoffs and the pennant after pulling off separate wins on Tuesday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Random Radicals' Melody Matson is seen here returning the ball to their foes during on of their games in the four-person NMIVA league on the PIC sandcourt.

Random Radicals swept the hapless Manta Diver, 21-13, 21-11, 15-7, while Chenutt Crew won the first two sets of its game against Pwipwise, 21-11, 21-13, to seal the victory. Pwipwise avoided a shutout after taking the third set, 15-10.

In the third game of the night, O-No also blanked Fisingan, 21-17, 21-14, 15-0.

The four-person league took a break on Thursday in celebration of Thanksgiving Day and will resume action on Tuesday. Angamwas will play Make It Bali in the curtain raiser at 5:30pm, while Special Delivery will square off against Git It in the secod game at 6:30pm. The last game of the night will have Shogunai battling Just Do It at 7:30pm.

Two more playing days in the regular season are scheduled before the league starts its playoff round on Dec. 10.

Skateboard competition set tomorrow

Island SK8 Society will hold the islands' first-ever skateboard competition at the newly built skatepark located along Middle Road next to Gold's Gym.

Club vice president Dan Westphal said the competition will be from 12pm to 6pm tomorrow, Nov. 28, with registration set from 12pm to 2pm.

He said the skate competition will involve a number of categories, starting with a game of S-K-A-T-E, which is like the game of H-O-R-S-E in basketball where participants do a trick in the park and if the next participant can't do it, he will get a letter. First to spell S-K-A-T-E gets eliminated.

Westphal said there will be three age groups for S-K-A-T-E—10-and-under, 11-15, and 16-and-up. He said older skateboarders can also take part in the old school category.

S-K-A-T-E will be followed by the Freestyle Competition, where each age group will have a few minutes to show off their tricks to make it into the second round. Competitors will have to use the entire park to make their impression on the judges.

Next will be the Best Trick competition followed by the second round of Freestyle Competition with the grand finale deciding the best freestyle skateboarder on Saipan.

Sponsors for the skateboard competition include IT&E, Boarderline, Monster, Gatorade, Triple J Wholesale, DFS, and Pacific Islands Club. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A host of skateboarding talents are expected to take part in the island's first-ever skateboarding competition set tomorrow at the newly built skatepark located along Middle Road.

Fajardo goes unscathed to win 8-ball tourney

Four games, four wins for Luis Fajardo as the veteran cue artist dominated last Saturday's Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Fajardo got off on the right foot when he defeated Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu in the first round. Fresh from the upset win he then beat Top Pool Bar manager Zheng Jian Qing for a place in the semifinals.

The slot for the twice-to-beat advantage was contested by Fajardo and Chesther Cuento with the former edging the latter in their semis matchup.

Fajardo got the first shot at the table and ran six of his assigned balls before missing on his seventh before the 8-ball.

Cuento rebounded nicely by pocketing five of his assigned balls but missed on his sixth attempt. Fajardo took advantage of his opponent's miscue and secured the twice-to-beat advantage after pocketing his last object ball and the 8-ball.

After a series of elimination matches, Cuento got his shot at redemption after handily beating Mark Butac in the second semifinals.

In the finals, the long layoff seemed to not affect Fajardo as he sunk all his seven object balls before missing on a crucial position shot on the 8-ball.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Luis Fajardo, right, poses with runner-up Chesther Cuento after beating him in the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday.

Cuento made good of the clear path given him by Fajardo and proceeded to sink his object balls. He, however, missed on his sixth shot to give control of the table back to Fajardo.

With only the 8-ball remaining, Fajardo calmly took aim and pocked it on the side pocket to secure last week's billiards championship.

Fajardo earned $55 for the win, while Cuento settled for the $25 runner-up purse. Other billiards players that took part in the competition were Rolly Villanueva, Victor Hocog, and Bradley Demapan.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is $10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MIFICPA to hold 'One-Day Bowling Slam' on Dec. 6

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will hold its 2nd Annual Bowling Tournament on Dec. 6 at the Capital Bowling Center.

Dubbed "One-Day Bowling Slam," the competition will be held from 1pm to 6pm at the Garapan bowling venue.

MIFICPA is inviting all accountants and their friends to join the event by forming and registering their own teams of five to seven players each.

The group said teams can enlist accountants and non-accountants. Players on each team, however, are limited to at least two accountants and one class A bowler. Participation fee is only $10 per players or $50 per team.

MIFICPA said the tournament is part of its commitment to help uplift the wellbeing of its members. Proceeds from the event will be donated to those affected by the recent typhoons that devastated the Philippines.

"With all the heart-pounding news that we hear these days, for our sanity's sake, we need to give ourselves a real break—have fun, chat, laugh, play, and catch that homelike feeling. Such a break will be provided through a bowling tournament organized by MIFICPA. The event also aims to provide relaxation and exercise to accountants who work seriously all day in their office table shuffling through papers or thumping on their computers," the group said in a media release.

To be awarded at the end of the tournament are prizes for the winning teams and special prizes for accountant bowlers. MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts for the event that will be sold for only $8.

Interested players/participants should e-mail their name and contact number to any of the following: MIFICPA president Melvin Marvar at mjmalvar@yahoo.com; Irene Santiago at irene_saipan@yahoo.com; Marlon Estigoy at marlon@saipan.com; Rene Cariazo at rene_cariazo@cicspn.com; and Bebilyn Estrada at bebilyn_estrada@tanholdings.com. They can also call Lois Manese at 235-0605 and e-mail her at eloisa_manese@yahoo.com and text Aileen Indino at 789-0021. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Beasley's late dunk propels Heat over Magic

At Orlando, Florida, Michael Beasley dunked a missed shot by Dwyane Wade with 1.6 seconds remaining to lift Miami to a victory over Orlando. 31

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tight race for No. 1 spot in NMIVA league

The race for the No. 1 spot in the 2009 PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIFA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League is still too close to call with three playing days left on the PIC sandcourt. 35

Jack, Mami top Turkey Trot Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel crushed his 2008 mark en route to an overall first place finish in the 24th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Run yesterday, while Mamiko Oshima-Berger also shattered her record last year to successfully defend her women's division title.

Kabiriel completed the lung-busting 4.2-mile race in 40 minutes and 16 seconds, breaking his time of 41:00 last year when he placed runner-up to Eli Torgeson. Torgeson left the island late last year, leaving the center stage of one of the longest-running events in the CNMI to Kabiriel.

The 34-year-old long distance runner said this year's race was an easier one compared to last year's, as it did not rain in the morning until most of the participants had already made it to the finish line. Last year, Kabiriel was among the first few runners to reach the highest peak on the

See JACK on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger are greeted by foggy weather after reaching Mt. Tapochao, the finish line for yesterday's 24th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Run.

Sonics finish pool play with win, Rollers top foe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Southern Sonics returned to their winning ways, pulling off a 36-28 victory against Rollers in the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament in Guam on Wednesday.

The Sonics, who had their two-game winning run snapped by the Celtics on Monday, improved to a 3-1 record in the pool play in the 16-and-under division and are waiting for other teams to complete their matches to determine the playoffs pairings.

Five more games in the 16-and-under division will be played tonight and after these matches, all teams will advance to the single-elimination playoffs. The top-ranked squad will get a bye in the first round and automatically gain a semis ticket. The eight other teams will then battle for the three other

See SONICS on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Southern Sonics warm-up before their game against Rollers in the 16-and-under division of the 3rd Annual Barrigada MPC Thanksgiving Invitational Tournament in Guam on Wednesday.

Manacop advances to masters

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Team Saipan's Simon Manacop finished in the Top 16 of the Men's All Events, assuring himself a spot in the masters of the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships at the Central Lanes in Tamuning, Guam.

Manacop

The Department of Public Safety detective wound up with 3,935 pinfalls to finish 11th place in the Men's All Events. He knocked down 1,328 pins in the singles, 1,353 in the doubles, and 1,254 in the Team of 4 to average 218.61 pinfalls.

Daegu bowlers occupy the Top 4 spots in the Men's All Events with Choi Suk Byung pacing his teammates with 4,326 pinfalls. He was followed by Kim Young Pyo (4,279), Shin Sung Hoon (4,156), and Bae Su Wook (4,094).

The rest of the finalists in the men's masters are the following: Tamuning's Brian Manibusan (4,092); Taipei's Wang Kuah-Yu (4,037); Hong Kong's Lau Kwan Ho (4,008); Tamuning's J.D. Castro (4,001); Pohang's Im Hyun Woo (3,965); Tamuning's John Ada (3,958); Quezon City's Jay Ar Tan (3,931);Tamuning's Jonathan Duenas (3,892); Victoria's Alex Li Su Tsan (3,882); Quezon City's Louie Chuaquico (3,881); and Hong's Michael Chan Yat Long (3,865).

Capital Hill's Raymond An-

See MANACOP on Page 34

Thanks living

"Did you hear what happened?" the immigration officer asked.

Those were the first words I heard upon arriving at the Saipan International Airport Sunday evening after spending the last two weeks in Honolulu for my wife's surgery. There was no need for him to specify exactly what the "what" was. He was referring of course to the senseless tragedy that occurred last Friday.

"Dad, I have bad news," my daughter had told me on the telephone shortly after the shootings had taken place. She was calling from Guam. There was panic in her voice.

We had just gotten back to the hotel feeling relieved and grateful after the successful operation (the CNMI medical referral office and staff in Honolulu were outstanding in their professionalism and care) but that quickly was replaced by fear.

She continued, "There's multiple shootings all over the island. Schools are in lockdown. The roads are cleared. The place has gone crazy!" She didn't have any details but the scenario she painted was downright scary, shocking and so unlike the island I have come to love.

I was immediately worried about my son in Kagman and texted him to make sure he was safe.

Later on I came to find out there had been only one shooter, all the fatalities were in Kannat Tabla and perpetrator committed suicide in Marpi.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

The story was reported the next two days in the *Honolulu Advertiser* on page 3, and also on CNN. It dominated discussion of those

See THANKS on Page 34